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JUNE 1996

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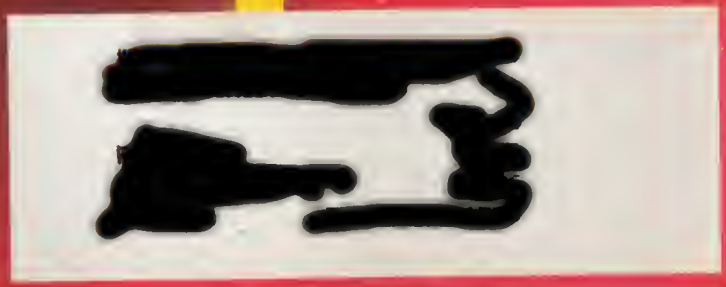

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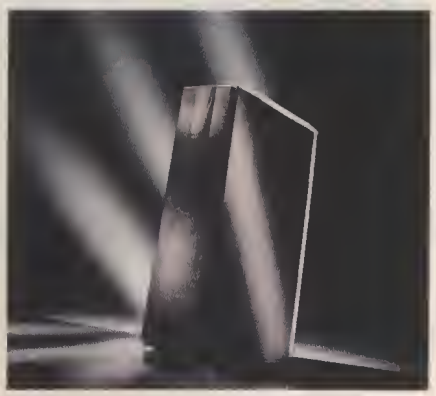

Bulletproof Storage

Zap! Hard drives die, but RAID keeps your data alive. We test the top fail-safe, high-capacity storage systems for the network and desktop. Plus, an inside look at how RAID systems work. **182**

June 1996
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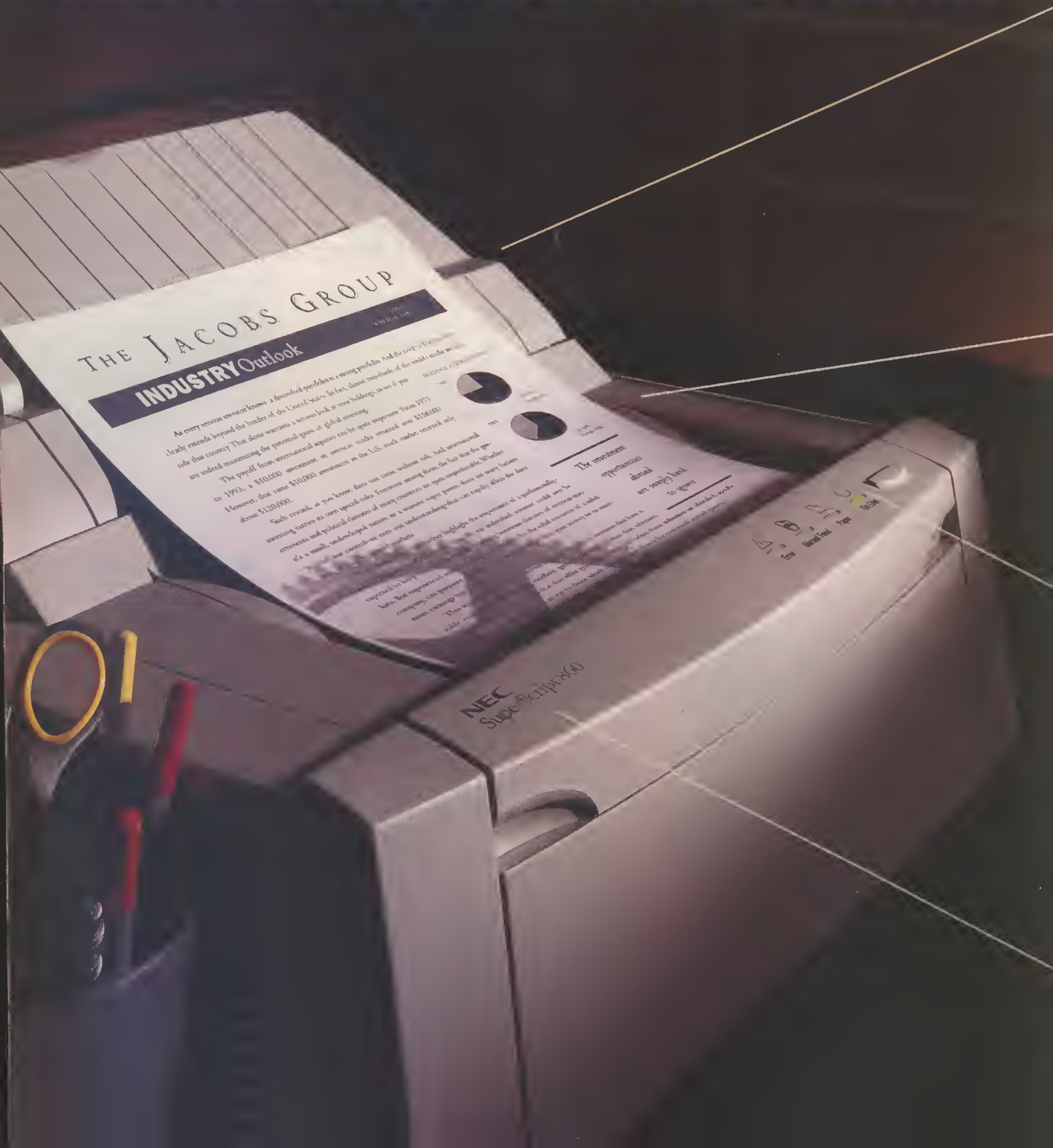

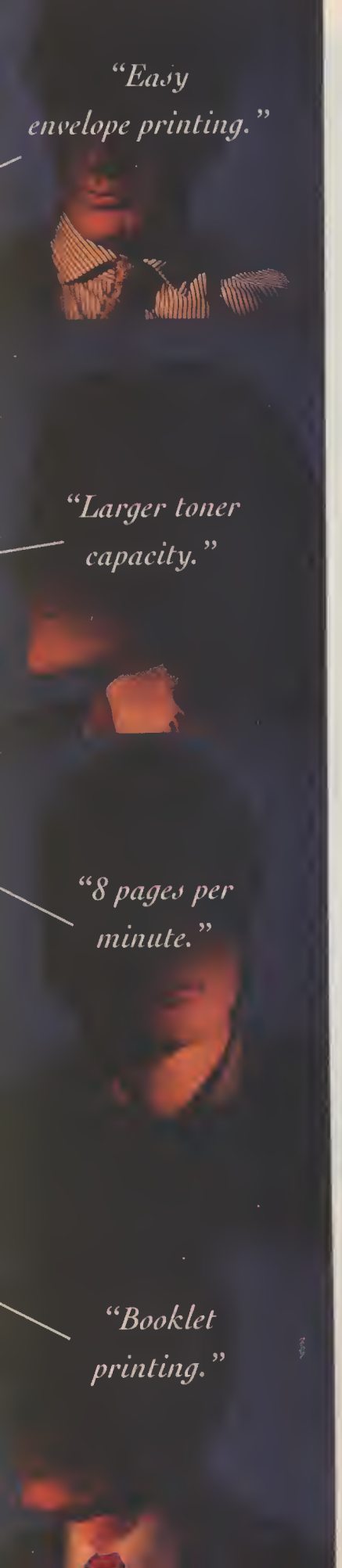

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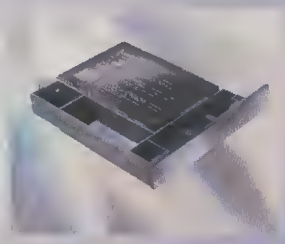

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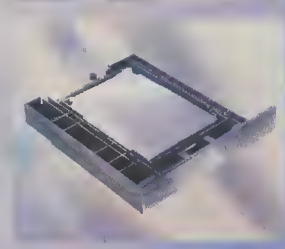

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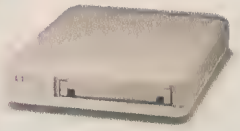

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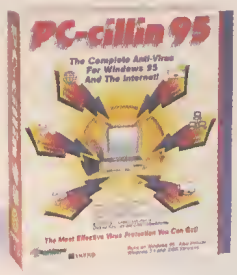

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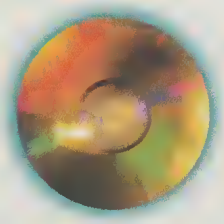

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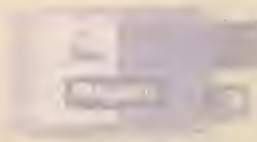

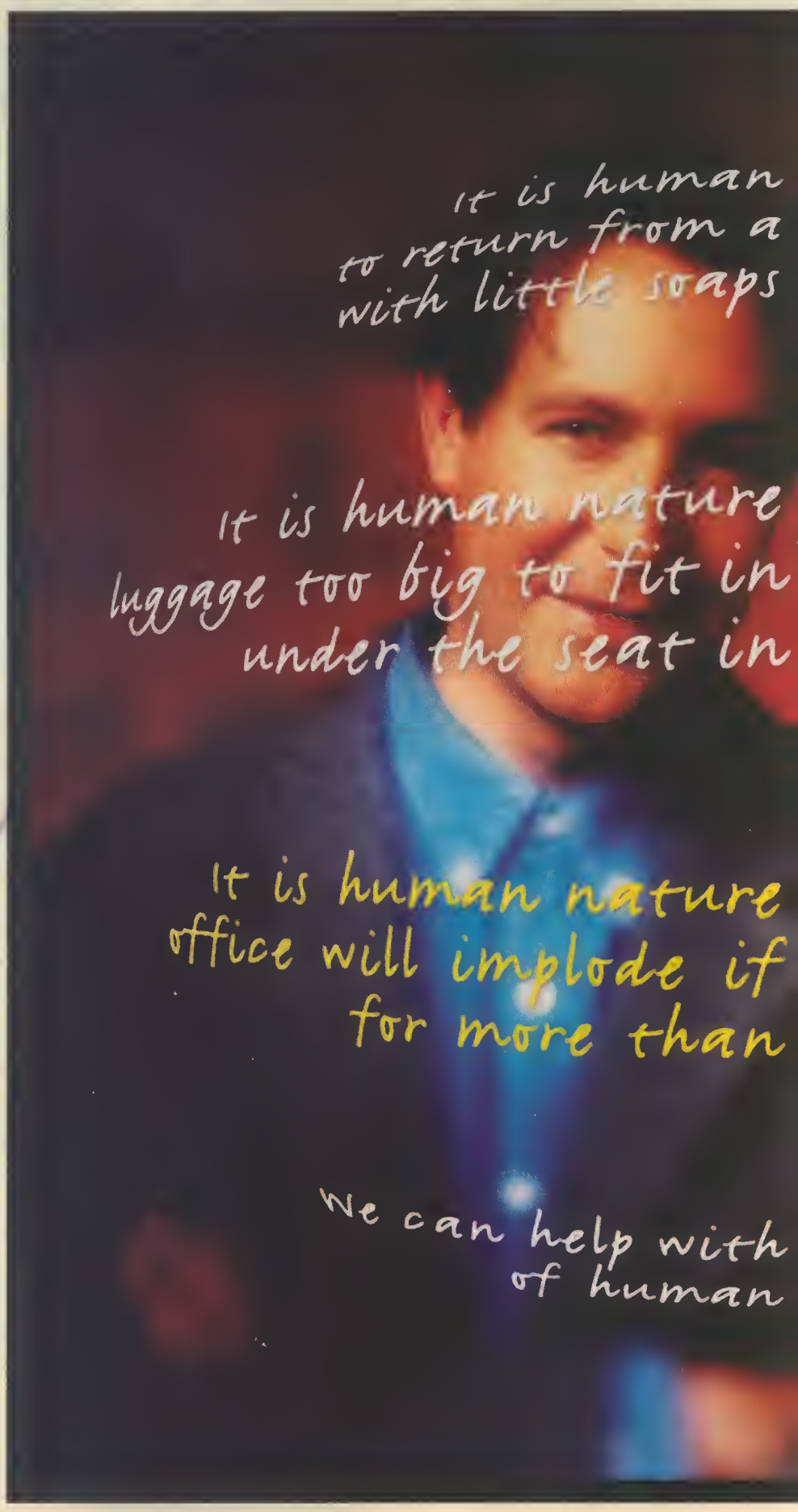

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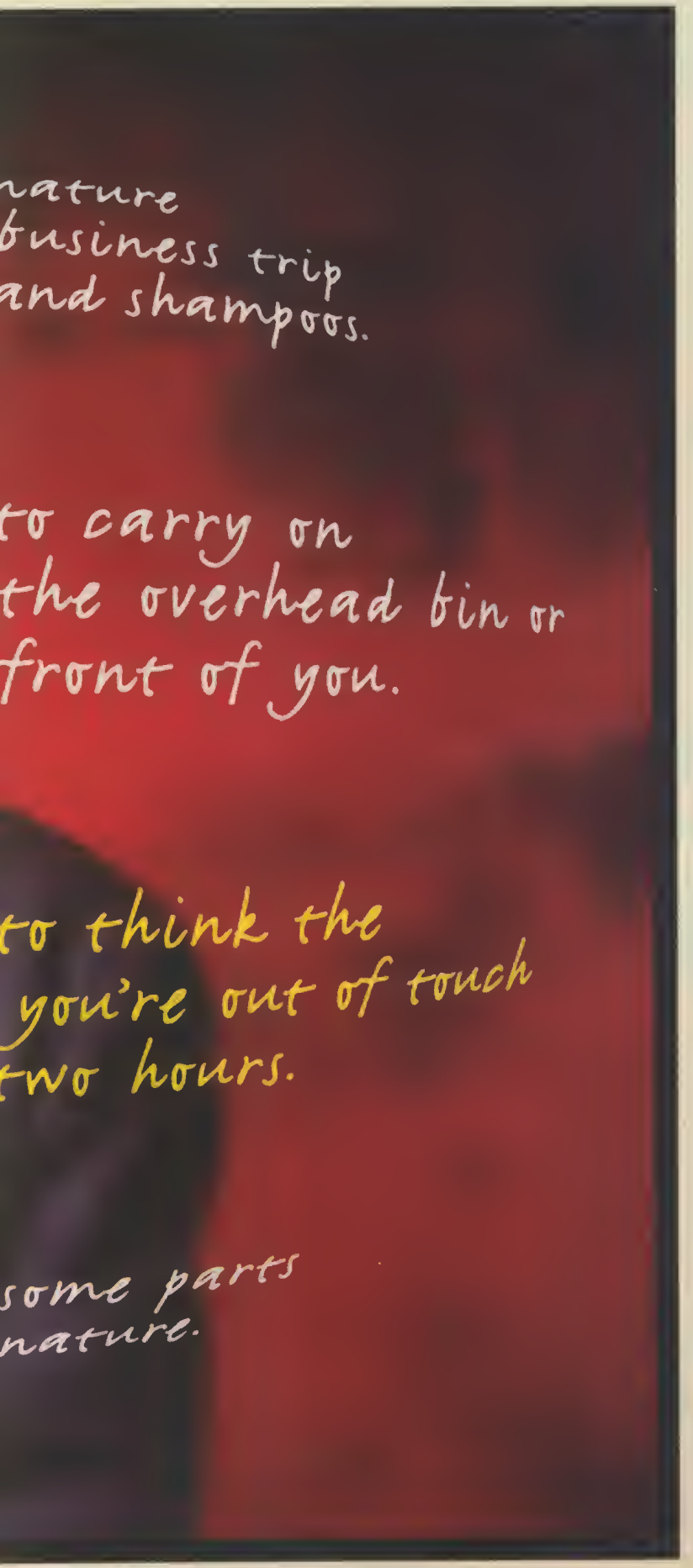

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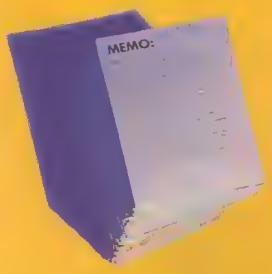

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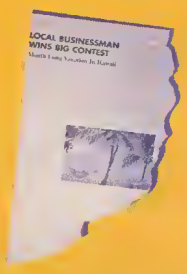

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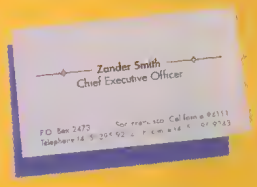

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Internet at Warp Speed For the ultimate I-Way experience, you need the ultimate tools. Join our editors in an exclusive America Online forum on Wednesday, May 29, from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. EST. Our expert staff will discuss fast modems, tricked-out analog-ISDN hybrids, Web browsers, and Internet suites. Think you have the best? There's better. Join us and find out where.

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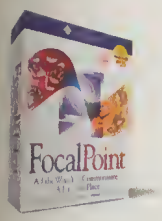

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DUMBING DOWN THE NET?

Internet Idiot Box

I decided that Sun Microsystems and fellow developers can keep their $500 Internet computers. What they're really talking about is a $500 dumb terminal. No thanks, I'll keep my modem-connected computer—where I can store things whenever I want, and get access with a second phone line. The next thing corporate America will sell is a refrigerator that saves electricity by using blocks of ice to keep food cold!

JEFF BROWN
VIA COMPUSERVE

No 'New' Technology

After reading John C. Dvorak's April column ("Total Recall," page 47), I have a few things to say about the alleged research and development concerning 8-bit processors and low-cost Web terminals. I can't believe I'm reading about microcomputing technology returning to our homes. Please, I never want to see a dumb terminal or any mainframelike device return to create havoc as they did in the past. There is a reason why we ran away from mainframes and closed architectures! If we fall into Bill Gates's trap, we are indeed fools.

T. INNES
VIA AMERICA ONLINE

THOSE OF YOU FEVERISHLY brushing up on your hexadecimal mathematics and lamenting the 8-bit graphics card should take a close look at the date of the issue in which Dvorak's column ran. Remember, never trust a company called Credibility, Inc.

Almost Hexed

When reading John C. Dvorak's April column "Total Recall," I thought to myself, Less bits is more power, huh? Heck, I even thought of retrofitting my T199 4/A with one of these hot new processors and using it as my latest Internet machine, and maybe resurrecting some other machines that I've been using as doorstops for several years. Luckily my hexadecimal education kicked in, and I finally came to my senses.

SCOTT KOETS
VIA THE INTERNET

No Zip with NT?

In your April "Graphics Superguide" you mention a machine running Microsoft's Windows NT and recommend using Iomega's Zip drive in the configuration for an expert graphics system (page 108). Using Windows NT makes sense, since your expert system has a Pentium Pro processor, but only the SCSI version of the Zip drive works with Windows NT. Wouldn't this combination severely limit the portability of the Zip drive, since the drive requires external SCSI support? I hope I'm wrong because I own a Zip drive. By the way, your article made me wish I had an extra $20,000 to spend—incredible systems!

MICHAEL D. HAUCK
VIA THE INTERNET

THE PARALLEL-PORT VERSION of the Zip drive, which is handy when you have to share the drive with several machines, doesn't work under Windows NT. However, the SCSI version does, and is a lot faster than the parallel-port one. The best solution? Get two SCSI drives. They're small and cheap, and you'd have to shuttle only the cartridges between your systems.

Safety with Numbers

In your April letter ("Safety Net," page 27), Paul Rea asks "How safe is online banking, really? Will the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation cover online-banking theft?" I work at a financial institution and can answer some of these questions. The FDIC covers an individual when an institution fails, not when an individual transaction fails. The safety of online banking is covered by Regulation E, which covers all electronic fund transactions. Ask your banker for details. Our customers constantly ask how safe online banking really is, but ironically these are the same people who give out credit-card numbers over the phone, use audio (touch-tone) banking, and even write checks without a second thought to how secure these transactions are.

VINCE LAURENT
VIA THE INTERNET

Netscape's Still Ahead

I disagree with your April review of Microsoft's Internet Explorer 2.0 ("Microsoft Narrows Netscape's Lead," page 79). Internet Explorer 2.0 isn't half as innovative as Netscape's Navigator 2.0, which supports embedded MIDI music and AVI video files in Web pages, as well as streaming video. Navigator also supports Sun Microsystems' Java and new features like animated GIF files. True, Internet Explorer's toolbar is smaller, but Navigator lets you edit or delete the toolbar altogether. These are just a few reasons why I refuse to support Internet Explorer 2.0's features on my Web page.

SCOTT NICOLSON
VIA THE INTERNET

WHETHER YOU SUPPORT IT OR NOT, Internet Explorer won't be going away anytime soon. Navigator has the technology edge over Internet Explorer, but Microsoft is working hard to close the gap. The soon-to-be-released Internet Explorer 3.0 will run all the popular Navigator 2.0 plug-ins like Macromedia's Shockwave and Progressive Networks' RealAudio, and

many people already find Internet Explorer easier to use than Navigator. (See this month's feature "Internet at Warp Speed" on page 118.)

PC Predictions

At the end of Paul Somerson's April column ("Bye, Netscape," page 45), he sums up his Carnac the Magnificent example with the following: "Once again, the answer is 'Microsoft.' The question is, 'Why did it take so long?'" *Hmm*, let's put that in proper order. How about, "Why did it take so long, Microsoft?" I think that's a pretty good summary of the last ten years of personal-computer evolution.

RUSSELL STEWART
VIA THE INTERNET

The Ultimate Web Browser

What's the perfect Web browser? It takes advantage of virtual reality and is already used by millions of people: Doom, from id Software. Think of its potential! Blow away your fellow cyber-shoppers for getting in the 10-item-or-less line with 15 items. Approach an online salesman in "god mode" and get the royal treatment. Use cheat codes as discount coupons. Use Doom's map to find your parking spot. With a little modification, Doom could be the ideal browser.

FRANK DECANDIA
VIA THE INTERNET

ROUGH DAY at the supermarket, Frank?

Finally, there's a UPS that belongs on TOP of your desk and not by your feet.

MINUTEMAN's new Pro Series packs a host of new features and unprecedented power protection in a tiny, ergonomic package, plus an unmatched three year-warranty.

Good looks may go a long way for some desktop products, but the Pro Series has so much more to offer PCs, servers, networks, and even telecommunications equipment:

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- Intelligent microprocessor
- SNMP-ready (280 VA and above)
- Models range from 200 VA to 1400 VA

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Empty NT Promises

One of Microsoft's goals when it released Windows 95 was to breathe some life into Windows NT by requiring that products be Windows NT–compatible for Windows 95–logo compliance. With this move, people who were otherwise reluctant to adopt Windows NT could do so without feeling like an OS/2 user. The products I use most often are released in Windows NT and Windows 95 versions at the same time—except Microsoft's. If you visit Microsoft's Web site to download Internet Explorer, you'll notice that the Windows NT release is at the bottom of the list. Am I the only one who finds this odd?

STEPHEN J. FRIEDL
VIA THE INTERNET

COINCIDENTAL, MAYBE, but there's no Windows NT conspiracy. When we visited Microsoft's Web site, Windows NT was listed prominently in several spots. Of course Windows 95 gets the bulk of publicity, but anyone looking for information about Windows NT applications can find it at Microsoft's site, www.microsoft.com.

Children, Not Castles

In your April Mail section (page 32) you prompted, "What would you ask Bill Gates?" I would ask him why he built a 27-bedroom home when he could have set up Internet access in U.S. schools. For every million dollars he spent on his extravagant house, he could have provided 2,000 schools with computers. I think this corporate bigwig ranks at the same level as the professional politicians that infest the puzzle palaces on the Potomac.

MERDIN CRIDDLE
VIA COMPUSERVE

You'll have to search the galaxy to find a more realistic multimedia experience than this.

There's not much doubt that intelligent life forms exist somewhere else in the universe. The question is: Are their multimedia systems as advanced as ours?

The new **Sound Blaster 8x Kits** make your current multimedia system seem like something out of a history book. They give you a brain-blistering 8x CD-ROM drive that makes all your CD-ROM software perform at warp speed. The 8x drive uses an IDE interface and is compatible with multiple standards including Photo CD and CD EXTRA.

You also get one of the hottest sound cards on the planet — the Sound Blaster 32 PnP. It delivers the brilliant realism of **32-note polyphony** and **wave-table synthesis**, adding new detail and richness to both sound effects and music. It also features Creative's **3D Stereo Enhancement Technology** to make your whole system sound better.

Since the search for bargains is universal, a fat collection of the hottest new games and software comes with every kit. Sound Blaster Performance 8x is designed for the multimedia fanatic. Sound Blaster Discovery CD 8x takes the whole family to the cutting edge. Both come with a pair of Sound Blaster speakers powerful enough to attract low-flying spacecraft. If you're looking for the ultimate CD-ROM upgrade, Blaster CD 8x gives you mach speed and great software to boot.

Great software value in every kit!

So the next time you see aliens from your window, just point them to the nearest Creative Labs dealer. Think of it as a way to promote harmony in the universe.

Introducing Sound Blaster 8x Multimedia Upgrade Kits

	CD-ROM	Speakers	Sound Card					
	CD-ROM Drive	Stereo Speakers	Play Audio CDs and Games	Record 16-bit audio	Wave Table Synthesis	32-Note Synthesizer	128 Real Instrument Sounds	3D Stereo Enhancement
Typical Multimedia System	4X							
Sound Blaster Multimedia Kit	8X							

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CREATIVE LABS, INC.
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For more information call our Faxback Service at 405-372-5227 or Customer Service at 800-998-5227 x134. © 1996 Creative Technology Ltd. Sound Blaster and Creative Labs are registered trademarks and the Sound Blaster compatibility logo, Sound Blaster Performance, Sound Blaster Discovery CD and Blaster CD are trademarks of Creative Technology Ltd. All rights reserved.

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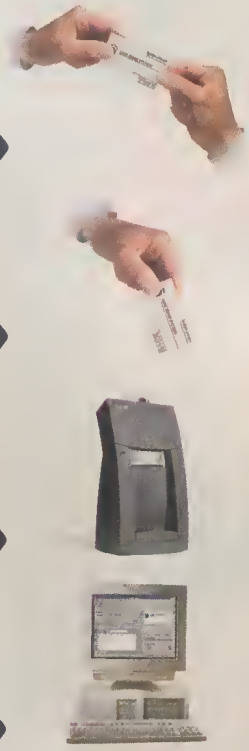
Coed Computing

For years I relied on *PC Computing*'s excellent technical advice, snappy, concise writing, and broad coverage of products. However, many of us have heard just about enough of how a device "really does fit in your shirt pocket" ("Portable Pocket Assistant," March, page 67). For obvious reasons, professional women don't put things in a shirt pocket, even if they have one. I'm sure it wouldn't stretch your writers' word count by too much to add the words *or purse* to this otherwise useful size comparison. Meanwhile, I want to say congratulations on a great and informative magazine.

CHRISTINA COURTRIGHT
VIA THE INTERNET

AU CONTRAIRE. Our executive editor frequently carries large objects in her shirt pockets. It was just an arbitrary word choice—no offense intended. And thanks for the kudos.

Get It.
Drop It.
Scan It.
Got It.



The Smart Business Card Reader.™ The Easiest Way To Get Contacts Into Your Computer.

Drop everything. And get rid of that Rolodex®. Now you can have all your contacts right where you want them. In your computer, in one touch.

With the Smart Business Card Reader, you just pick up a business card and drop it in. There's nothing else to do, because everything you need is built in. Our intelligent software recognizes a contact's name, company, address, and phone number and places it all in a contact database. A second touch will even send it to contact managers like ACT!, Maximizer, PackRat and more.

All you need to get started is a Windows® 3.1 or Windows 95 compatible PC. You'll be ready to scan contacts into your computer in less than five minutes. And if you want to make your life even easier, you'll pick up a Smart Label Printer™ so you can create address labels directly from your database.

To get your hands on the Smart Business Card Reader, call 1-800-688-0817. Or e-mail us at slp_info@seikosj.com.

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Circle 118 on reader service card.

More LANs, Fewer Laughs

Please continue your excellent coverage of networking issues as in your March feature, "Networks for the '90s" (page 158). As a computer professional, I must limit my reading to what I need to know to do my job. And *PC Computing* is a valuable resource in my slush pile. But it's been over a year, and you still haven't come up with a viable alternative to Penn Jillette's old back-page column. The Web sites in HotList are best described as lame. Comedy isn't pretty.

JAMES PORTANOVA
VIA COMPUSERVE

Gloating Gator

Adam Meyerson better enjoy those highlights of Florida State University crushing the Gators ("Florida State Football," Windows Buyer, April, page 204), because it's the only time he'll be watching that for years. In the FSU–University of Florida series, University of Florida leads 24-13-2, and I hope that continues. Go Gators!

JEFF BROWN
VIA THE INTERNET

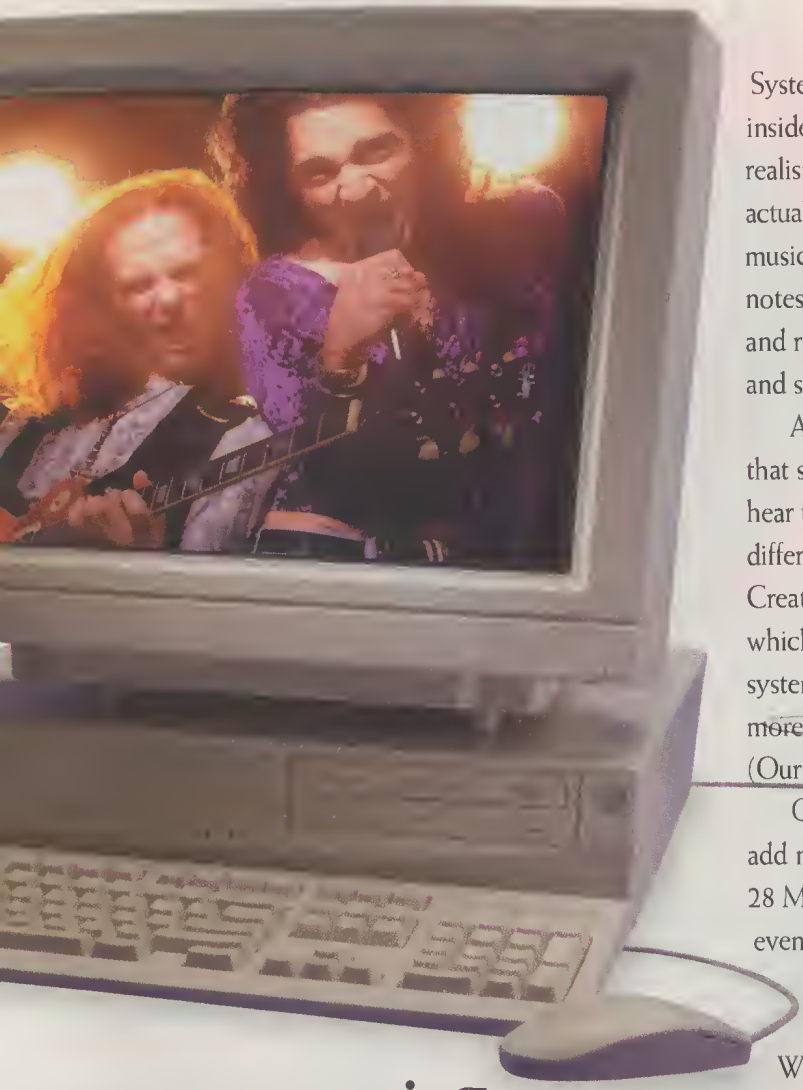
For the Record

In our April review of Iomega's Jaz drive ("Get a Gigabyte To Go," page 53) the correct cost per megabyte is 60 cents.

Lexmark's Optra C color laser printer, reviewed in our April "Graphics Superguide" on page 115, supports legal-size paper (8 inches by 14 inches). Adobe's Photoshop version 3.0.5, reviewed on page 130 of that story, is a full 32-bit application. Also in that story on page 127 we wrote about an early beta version of Deneba's Canvas 5. We since learned that many new features in the program have been added or changed. For a preview of what to expect in the final version of Canvas 5, check out the product brief in this issue on page 39.

WHAT'S ON YOUR WEB PAGE? Send your thoughts about this and other subjects to Mail, *PC Computing*, 950 Tower Lane, 19th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404; fax: (415) 578-7059; Internet: 72241.1724@compuserve.com; or CompuServe: 72241,1724. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.

A breakthrough in sound so real, your PC will have its own groupies.



Systems, the professional audio experts, inside your PC. It delivers the mind-bending realism of wave-table synthesis–which uses actual recordings of real sound effects and musical instruments. And it plays up to 32 notes simultaneously, adding new detail and richness to your favorite games and software.

AWE 32 is the first sound card that supports 3D Positional Audio™, so you can hear those dueling guitars coming at you from different places in the room. It also features Creative's 3D Stereo Enhancement Technology™, which makes your whole system sound richer and more powerful. (Our apologies to the neighbors.)

Our downloadable SoundFont® technology lets you add new sounds and instruments to your card. Add up to 28 MB of memory to create your own audio library. We even included a microphone and software for recording music and sound effects. And, of course, the AWE 32 is fully Plug and Play and works with Windows® 95, Windows 3.1 and DOS. So installation is a no brainer.

Check out our new line of Sound Blaster® Speakers, sold separately at your local dealer

Want to complete your multimedia dream system? Pick up the new Blaster CD™ 8x CD-ROM and Sound Blaster Speakers too, at your nearest Creative Labs dealer. But take along your bodyguard, in case the groupies get carried away.

The crowd keeps growing until they have your house surrounded.

Then the chanting begins. "A-W-E…A-W-E…A-W-E."

It seems that Sound Blaster® AWE 32™ PnP is the first sound card to develop its own cult following. That's because it makes every other sound card seem like a blast from the past.

The AWE 32 puts professional sound technology from E-mu®

Sound Blaster AWE32 PnP. Hear What You've Been Missing

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So you're a tad skeptical. We understand. After all, the idea of team computing with other office suite software has been somewhat of a fantasy.

Now there's Lotus SmartSuite.®

Exhibit A: TeamReview.™ This powerful feature lets you easily solicit feedback by establishing "who" receives a document for review, "what" level of editing rights they'll receive (comment only, read only or edit only) and "how" the document will be distributed (via floppy disk, e-mail or Lotus Notes®).

Co-workers can then edit using review and comment tools like a highlighter pen, revision marking or electronic comment notes.

Exhibit B: TeamConsolidate.™ Here the author can review everyone's edits and decide which comments to incorporate. And then, with a click of a button, collapse accepted comments into one revised document. (This might be a good time to start warming up those pipes of yours, because you'll be singing the praises of SmartSuite just a few paragraphs from now.)

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Software that makes everyone work better together? Should I break into song now or later?

everyday mundane tasks disappear, leaving more time for you to do what you do best. It's also been optimized for Windows® 95 to deliver greater functionality and productivity.

And now with LotusScript,™ the BASIC-compatible scripting language in SmartSuite, you can easily create customized applications that the whole team can work with. Clearly, this is not ordinary office suite software. Ask the folks at PC Week. They gave it the "Analyst's Choice Award" for best Windows® 95 suite over Microsoft Office.®

Versions of SmartSuite are available for Windows 95, Windows 3.1 and OS/2,® and SmartSuite is now included with Aptiva,® ThinkPad® and most IBM® PCs, as well as select Acer,® AST® and Epson® PCs.

Call 1-800-TRADE-UP, ext. B781 and we'll be happy to send you the free Lotus Gallery CD, complete with a 45 day trial version of SmartSuite. (And to listen to that beautiful singing voice of yours.)

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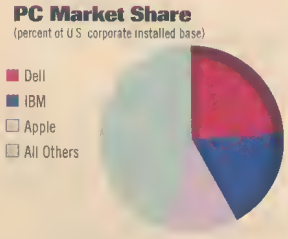
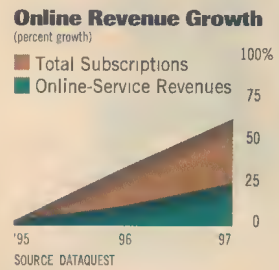
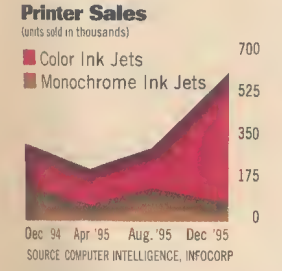
Pulse Internet Encounters,



Desktop Domination: Dell surpassed IBM in 1995 to become the largest PC maker for corporate America. The two companies produce 42 percent of all PCs sold.



Online-Service Woes: Online services are adding subscribers, but their revenue growth is slowing. As they scramble to add access points, expect frequent busy signals.



Color Counts: The most popular printers last year? Color ink jets. Their sales increased by 167 percent, while monochrome ink-jet sales dropped 48 percent.

ONLINE SERVICES

Caught In The Web

An online service going out of business seemed impossible a couple of years ago. At that time, any company with an online service hit the digital jackpot. Then the World Wide Web happened. Services like America Online, CompuServe, and Prodigy have done an about-face over the past year—they now offer full Internet access in addition to their own content. But can they compete with new national Internet service providers (ISPs) that offer unlimited Internet access for a lower price? Here's what the big players are up to.

Eaten Alive: Can America Online, CompuServe, and the other online services survive with the World Wide Web?

America Online Despite the Web explosion, America Online—the biggest online service to date—recently passed the 5 million member mark and is making some major deals. America Online and Netscape just announced that Navigator 2.0 will be available to all America Online members. Then Microsoft one-upped Netscape by announcing that Internet Explorer 3.0 will become the official browser for America Online, and America Online will be embedded in the next update of Windows 95.

CompuServe CompuServe recently announced Wow, the first large-scale, specialized online service that caters to families and costs $17.95 a month. The company also announced several strategic partnerships and a variety of new online finance features, including online banking and stock tracking. These efforts go a step beyond what other basic Internet providers offer, and may breathe new life into the aging service.

Microsoft Network In the past few months, Microsoft came up with an answer to almost every possible Internet need. Internet Explorer 3.0, which is free, will support

UPDATES Best Bets and Bargains

BUDGET PENTIUMS
Surplus clearinghouse RTI is selling a warehouseful of AT&T's Globalyst P100s for $1,625 and 486-based laptops for $1,450. Contact RTI at (800) 929-0029.
Reader Service No. 601

DIGITAL DEALS
WebCatalog ($695) is a helpful Web-commerce package with secure invoice and administration features. Contact Pacific Coast Software at (619) 675-1106.
Reader Service No. 602

HOME SWEET HOME
Looking for a domicile for your home page? Site Launcher offers one-button publishing starting at $9.95 a month. Contact LinkStar at (954) 426-5465.
Reader Service No. 603

SMART SCANNING
Microtek's ScanMaker E3 offers color scanning, image-editing software, and Caere's OmniPage OCR—all for $399. Contact Microtek at (800) 654-4160.
Reader Service No. 604

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER ALAN GOULD SPIDER IMAGE COURTESY OF SUPERSTOCK

Better Browsers

everything Netscape's Navigator does—in addition to Microsoft's ActiveX technology, a means to Internet-enable any application. So what's in store for Microsoft Network? As an online service it's history. Instead, Microsoft might put all its content on the Web and become one of the biggest Internet service providers to date.

Prodigy Although it ranks a distant third in membership, Prodigy is negotiating with Microsoft to include the Prodigy client in Windows 95. But the big rumor is Prodigy may dump its proprietary software and go the ISP route, putting all of its content on the Web. It already provides a service called Access Net Direct, which gives customers a pay-as-you-go pricing plan at $1 an hour, with no monthly minimum or subscription fee.

What the Future Holds The trick to survival for online services is providing unlimited Internet access in addition to special services that basic ISPs don't offer. Online banking, specialized information, clubs—the list grows daily as online services scramble to stay ahead of the growing swarm of ISPs.

However, regional and national service providers alike are creating unique content to pull customers away from online services. Also on the horizon are cable companies that act as ISPs, offering very low rates and leasing lightning-fast cable modems. Appealing to surfers' need for speed, these cable companies could lure thousands of subscribers from their online services. Who will win the war? Stay tuned. **JL and RS**

Netscape's Nemesis

At first glance, Microsoft's **Internet Explorer 3.0** matches Netscape's Navigator in its support for **frames, plug-ins,** and **Java.** But look closer and you'll see that Microsoft added some gems of its own, including **borderless frames,** HTML 3.0 features, and **ActiveX** technology. Microsoft hopes developers will use ActiveX to enliven static Web pages by adding animation, **3-D virtual reality,** and video. RS

Internet Explorer 3.0 / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080 (www.microsoft.com) / free / *Reader Service No. 605*

CD-Recordable Drives

Who needs tape backup when you can copy your hard drive onto a CD-ROM? Here are the least expensive double-speed CD-recordable drives we could find as of April 1.

Product	Price
HP SureStore CDWriter *Misco* *(800) 876-4726*	$995
Olympus Deltis Recordable CD *PrePress Direct* *(800) 443-6600*	$1,299
Sony Spressa 9211 *Computer Discount Warehouse* *(800) 886-4239*	$1,189
MicroNet Master CD Plus 2X CD-ROM Recorder *SYEX Express* *(800) 289-7939*	$1,199

Reader Service Numbers: Misco, *606;* PrePress Direct, *607;* Computer Discount Warehouse, *608;* SYEX Express, *609.*

RADAR: Wireless Wonderland, Self-Control

What's on the scope? If a blip is near or moving toward the middle of the radar screen, check it out. If it's moving off the screen, steer clear for now.

NEW PROCOMM PLUS 3.0

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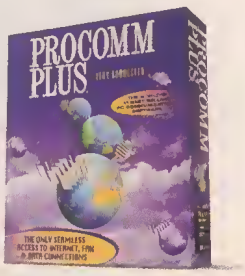

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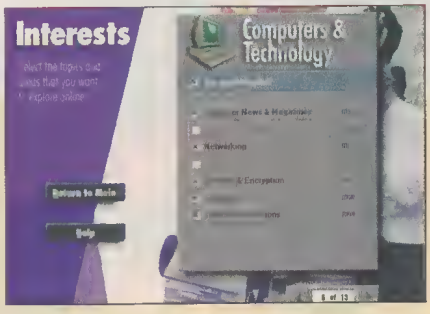


I-Way Education

Online novices face a spate of Internet-introduction CD-ROMs, most of which include a sparse interactive tutorial and a simple Web browser. Here are four titles that offer a little more than basic explanations and a free browser.

Internet Made Easy US Online's Internet Made Easy (shown above) asks questions about your interests, preferences, and computing environment. It then uses the information to help you select a service provider from one of a half-dozen, and build a customized interface.

Internet Coach Want a crash course in Netscape's Navigator? Apte's Internet Coach takes you on an interactive Internet-simulation tour, illustrating how to browse the Internet, gain access to information, and download files.

Internet Master Pack The Saratoga Group's Internet Master Pack includes four titles: How to Use the World Wide Web, How to Find Things on the Internet, How to Use E-mail on the Internet, and the Internet Reference Desk. This set is thin on multimedia, but it packs an abundance of text information.

Instant Internet Access Plenty of interactive information and shareware makes Instant Internet Access good for beginners. The CD-ROM's video walks you step by step through several Internet activities. Also included is the best-selling book *Success with Internet,* and a database of over 300,000 e-mail addresses. **RS**

Internet Made Easy / US Online / $29 est. street price / (800) 876-6546 / *Reader Service No. 610*

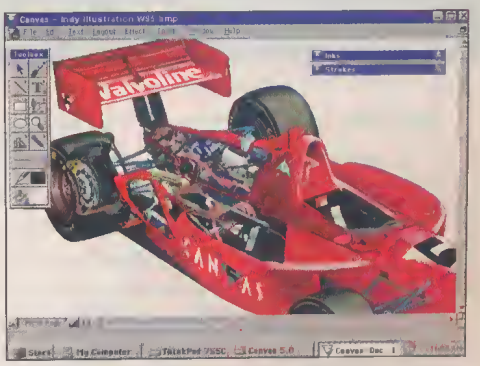
Internet Coach / Apte / $49 est. street price / (800) 494-1112 / *Reader Service No. 611*

Internet Master Pack / The Saratoga Group / $39 est. street price / (800) 893-8008 / *Reader Service No. 612*

Instant Internet Access / Jamsa Press / $39 est. street price / (800) 432-4112 / *Reader Service No. 613*

Power Up Your Palette

Get all the **graphics power** you need with Deneba Software's **Canvas 5.** Due out in early July, the new version offers a hefty dose of features that expand on the software's **image editing, typesetting, page layout,** and high-resolution output tools. The package has a new interface with detachable toolbars, over **100 new features,** and 32-bit performance. Among the long list of enhancements are improved image-editing tools, **new filters,** support for any Photoshop plug-in filter, better text control, automatic column generation, and support for more than 30 image formats. Canvas 5 also comes with two CD-ROMs containing more than 20,000 pieces of clip art. A **competitive upgrade** is available for $149. JL



Canvas 5 / Deneba Software / $389 est. street price / (800) 622-6827 / *Readers Service No. 614*

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FASTER than a bolt of lightning, more powerful than a burst of thunder, ALR's EVOLUTION 6 series is taking the business world by storm. Featuring the power of Pentium® Pro technology with speeds of up to 200-MHz, these two new systems are going to improve the forecast for your business. Looking for the ultimate in Pentium Pro technology? The **ALR EVOLUTION DUAL6** is one of the industry's first PCs to offer an immediate upgrade path to dual Pentium Pro technology. In other words, you can get the power of a high-performance RISC-based workstation for thousands of dollars less. Its the power you need to take advantage of 32-bit operating systems such as Windows® NT, SCO® UNIX, and Novell® NetWare™ SMP. With room for up to 512-MB of RAM and over 16-GB of storage, the EVOLUTION DUAL6 has the performance and expandability you're looking for in a small business server. A suite of built-in Hardware Management Features prevents downtime by monitoring critical information such as CPU temperature, fan speed, and system voltage. Or just add a high performance PCI video card, and you've got the ultimate CAD, scientific or animation workstation.

ALR EVOLUTION DUAL6
150-or 200-MHz Pentium Pro Processor
Dual Pentium Pro Processor Ready
Mini Tower Model
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512-MB Max Memory
256-KB Integrated L2 Cache
PCI/ISA Bus Architecture
Six Total Storage Bays
Eight Total Expansion Slots
315 Watt Power Supply
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First Year On-Site Service*

intel inside
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Mini Tower Model
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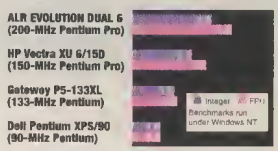
256-KB Integrated L2 Cache
PCI/ISA Bus Architecture
Six Total Storage Bays
Six Total Expansion Slots
200 Watt Power Supply
5 Year/ 36 Month Warranty
First Year On-Site Service*

ALR EVOLUTION DUAL6

BYTEmark 32-bit CPU/FPU Benchmarks



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Circle 119 on reader service card.

Pulse

Liven Up Your Web Pages

While we wait around for Sun Microsystems' Java to get easier, several products now available are already delivering simple multimedia Web authoring. Unlike Java, they all use their own plug-ins for Netscape's Navigator.

Fractal Imager Tired of squinting at postage-stamp–size pictures and graphics? Iterated Systems' Fractal Imager (shown above) delivers full-screen photos and graphics without choking the average modem. Fractal Imager lets users view the images as well as zoom, flip, crop, and convert them to various color schemes.

IconAuthor 7.0 Going the route of Macromedia's Director and Shockwave, Aimtech's IconAuthor 7.0 has a free plug-in for viewing multimedia applications on the Web. IconAuthor uses a flowchart metaphor to create presentations, and supports most graphic, sound, and multimedia file types. It also optimizes itself for Internet play by downloading only the part of the multimedia presentation that is being accessed.

Expo If you don't wince at the idea of scripting, you'll find Mace Software's Expo a useful development tool for designing multimedia content on the Web. With Expo's plug-in, you can create applications full of animation and interactive controls. If scripting isn't your thing, you can call on Expo's wizards for simple tasks like creating multimedia slide shows. **JL**

Fractal Imager / Iterated Systems / $69 est. street price / (800) 646-7210 / *Reader Service No. 615*

IconAuthor 7.0 / Aimtech / $4,530 est. street price / (800) 289-2884 / *Reader Service No. 616*

Expo / Mace Software / $399 list price / (800) 944-0191 / *Reader Service No. 617*

Contributors to Pulse: Kyla K. Carlson, Lydia M. Karlowicz, Liesl La Grange Noble, Julie McCullough, Scott Naylor, Rich Schwerin.
Edited by Jack Lyon.

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O'Hare Airport: 4.3 miles of terminals.

Dallas/Ft. Worth: 4.8 miles.

Denver International: 3.2 miles.

(It occurred to us you might want a lighter notebook.)

intel inside pentium PROCESSOR

Designed for Microsoft® Windows®95

Of course, it also occurred to us that you don't want to lose features while losing weight. Thus, the new AcerNote™ Light notebook computer offers a Pentium® processor, full-size keyboard and large 10.4" color screen.

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- 2 Type II/1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
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intel inside pentium PROCESSOR

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Circle 167 on reader service card.

The A-List

Editors' Top Picks by Wendy Taylor

		Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*	More Info
Systems	High-Performance Pentium	Dell Dimension XPS P166c	**So fast you may never see the Windows hourglass again. We can't wait for a 200MHz version.**	$3,549, 166MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 1.2GB, 6X CD-ROM.	March 1996 page 132 (800) 433-2318 Reader Service No 618
Systems	High-Performance Pentium Pro	Micron Pro 200 Magnum Plus	**Power that will rock you back on your heels. Feed it native 32-bit apps only.**	$5,499, 200MHz Pentium Pro, 32MB RAM, 4GB hard drive.	This issue, page 70 (800) 515-9197 Reader Service No 619
Systems	Desktop Workhorse	Micron Electronics P133 Millennia	**The sweet spot for systems: the performance you crave and all the extras, too.**	$2,79B, 133MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 1.6GB, 6X CD-ROM.	Sept. 1995, page 106 (800) 515-9197 Reader Service No. 620
Systems	Low-Cost Desktop PC	Dell Dimension P100t	**Priced so low even your cheapest relatives will bite.**	$2,399, 100MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 1GB, 4X CD-ROM.	Jan. 1996, page 132 (800) 433-6675 Reader Service No. 621
Systems	SOHO System	Compaq Presario 9240	**Command central for any home office—manages your fax, voice, and e-mail messages while you get down to work.**	$3,647, 133MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 1.2GB hard drive.	May 1996, page 83 (800) 345-1518 Reader Service No. 622
Systems	High-Performance Web Server	Hewlett-Packard Vectra XU 6/200	**The hottest NT box you can buy—with room for a second processor and acres of storage.**	$7,500, 200MHz Pentium Pro, 32MB RAM, 2GB hard drive.	This issue, page 70 (800) 752-0900
Systems	Pricewise Direct System	HiQuality Computer C166+ PowerStation	**This 133MHz 6x86 runs faster than 166MHz Pentiums. Are you feeling the heat yet, Intel?**	$2,550, 133MHz 6x86, 16MB RAM, 2.1GB hard drive.	This issue, page 66 (800) 827-5836 Reader Service No 623
Network Servers	[illegible]	Compaq ProSignia 300 5/90	**Who needs an information systems department? This server is so well designed, it runs itself.**	$4,12B, 90MHz Pentium, 32MB RAM, 2GB hard drive.	Nov 1995, page 138 (800) 345-1518 Reader Service No. 624
Network Servers	[illegible]	Digital Prioris LX 590	**Our labs call it the fastest server to hit our test bench; we call it a great deal.**	$3,249, 90MHz Pentium, 192MB RAM, 4X CD-ROM drive.	Dec 1995, page 158 (800) 344-4825 Reader Service No 625
Network Servers	[illegible]	Compaq ProLiant 1500	**A reliable anchor for 15 or more network nodes.**	$14,375, 100MHz Pentium, 12BMB RAM, two 2.1GB SCSI-2 drives.	Nov. 1995, page 138 (800) 345-1518 Reader Service No 626
Network Servers	[illegible]	Hewlett-Packard NetServer 5/133 LS2	**Two onboard processors and loaded with technical wizardry.**	$25,095, two 133MHz Pentium CPUs, 76BMB, five 2.1GB SCSI drives.	March 1996, page 158 (800) 322-4772
Portables	Portable Desktop Replacement	Toshiba Tecra 720CDT	**The follow-you-around office: 133MHz Pentium, removable six-speed CD-ROM drive, and 12.1-inch hi-res display.**	$7,499, 133MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 1.13GB hard drive.	This issue, page 69 (800) 999-4273 Reader Service No. 627
Portables	Lightweight Traveling Notebook	Toshiba Portégé 610CT	**Take it anywhere: This 4.8-pound ultraportable Pentium fits in any briefcase—with room to spare.**	$3,999, 90MHz Pentium, BMB RAM, 6B6MB hard drive.	May 1996, page 110 (800) 999-4273 Reader Service No. 628
Portables	Low-Cost Color Portable	Texas Instruments Extensa Model 450	**All the extras of Dell's Latitude and Toshiba's Satellite for under two grand. Let the price wars begin!**	$1,798, 75MHz 486DX4, BMB RAM, 340MB hard drive.	March 1996, page 282 (800) 848-3927 Reader Service No 629
Portables	Multimedia Notebook	NEC Versa 4050C	**A quick-change artist for the road: Swap the four-speed CD-ROM drive for a hard drive, battery, or floppy drive.**	$4,499, 90MHz Pentium, BMB RAM, B10MB hard drive.	May 1996, page 110 (800) 632-4636 Reader Service No 630
Portables	State-of-the-art Portable	IBM ThinkPad 760CD	**If James Bond carried a portable, this would be it. It packs more features than your average desktop PC.**	$6,889, 120MHz Pentium, removable 4X CD-ROM drive.	March 1996, page 183 (800) 426 7255 Reader Service No. 631

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE

The A-List

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		Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*	More Info
Desktop Printers	Desktop Laser Printer	Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5MP	**You can buy a faster laser, but not a better one. Plus, who needs cables? Beam jobs to the IR port instead.**	$950, 6 ppm, 600 dpi, PCL 5 (PostScript optional), infrared port.	Dec 1995 page 158 (800) 752-0900
Desktop Printers	Low-Cost Color Printer	Canon BJC-4100	**Low-maintenance, high-quality color—and sanely priced.**	$349, 720-by-360-dpi black, 360-dpi color.	Feb. 1996, page 140 (800) 848-4123 Reader Service No. 632
Desktop Printers	Desktop Color Printer	Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 855C	**Near-laser-quality color output for a tenth of the price.**	$449, 600 dpi, 7-ppm black, 3-ppm color.	Feb. 1996, page 140 (800) 752-0900
Desktop Printers	Portable Printer	Citizen PN60	**Slip it in your briefcase, then wow clients when you produce color pages on the spot.**	$299, 300-dpi thermal transfer, 1.5 pounds.	Feb 1995, page 64 (310) 453-0614 Reader Service No. 633
Network Printers		Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5Si MX	**Even 50-page print jobs fly out faster than you can trot down the hall to claim them.**	$4,000, 24 ppm, 600 dpi, PCL 5e, PostScript Level 2.	Jan 1996, page 89 (800) 752-0900
Network Printers		Lexmark Optra C	**Lightning-fast color laser output for just 17 cents per page.**	$6,889, 12-ppm black, 3-ppm color.	April 1996, page 115 (800) 891-0331 Reader Service No 634
Network Printers		Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 1600CM	**Churns out brilliant color pages faster than you can produce them.**	$1,999, 9-ppm black, 4-ppm color.	Nov 1995, page 172 (800) 752-0900
Video	High-Resolution 20- or 21-Inch Monitor	Sony Multiscan 20sfII	**The best view of Windows you can buy.**	$2,299, 20-inch, 1,280 by 1,024 pixels at 75Hz, Plug and Play.	This issue, page 156 (800) 352-7669, ext. 119 Reader Service No. 635
Video	High-Resolution 17-Inch Monitor	Sony Multiscan 17sf	**Sweet 17-inch deal. Makes Windows look great, too.**	$769, 1,280 by 1,024 pixels at 60Hz.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 352-7669, ext. 119 Reader Service No. 636
Video	High-Resolution Graphics Accelerator	Matrox MGA Millennium	**Ultrafast Windows RAM and 3-D acceleration make this the graphics accelerator to covet.**	$450, 4MB WRAM, 1,280 by 1,024 pixels at 76Hz, PCI interface.	April 1996, page 149 (800) 583-4353 Reader Service No 637
Storage	Removable Storage	Iomega Zip Drive	**Chic, purple, and portable. And the cartridges are removable.**	$199, 25MB or 100MB cartridges, SCSI or parallel interface.	Feb 1996, page 175 (800) 697-8833 Reader Service No. 638
Storage	CD-ROM Drive	NEC MultiSpin 4Xc	**The best bargain around: Queue up seven discs in this quad-speed jukebox for the price of a single-disc drive.**	$349, SCSI interface, seven-disc changer.	Dec 1995, page 158 (800) 632-4636 Reader Service No. 639
Storage	Hard Drive	Seagate Medalist 2140	**Be greedy. At this price, why not get two?**	$530, Fast ATA-2, 10.5ms access time, 2.51GB storage.	Stay tuned. (408) 438-8111 Reader Service No. 640
Storage	Network Storage	Mega Drive Systems MR5 RAID Disk Array	**Bulletproof backup and storage for your network data.**	$9,500, 5GB RAID array.	Nov. 1995, page 186 (800) 404-6342 Reader Service No. 641
Peripherals	Personal Scanner	Visioneer PaperPort Vx	**The quickest way to tame your paper in-box—moves paper off your desk and onto your hard drive in seconds.**	$329, 400 dpi, document-management software.	Jan. 1996, page 92 (800) 787-7007, ext. 102 Reader Service No 642
Peripherals	Multimedia Sound Card	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32 PnP	**The ultimate for business multimedia. It's great for games, too.**	$200, 32-voice polyphony, 16-bit DSP.	Jan. 1996, page 173 (800) 998-5227 Reader Service No 643
Peripherals	High-speed Fax Modem	U.S. Robotics Courier I-Modem	**A bridge to the future—get a 28.8Kbps analog and ISDN modem in one.**	$650, ISDN and V.34 (28.8Kbps).	This issue, page 118 (800) 877-2677 Reader Service No. 644

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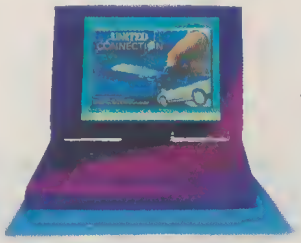

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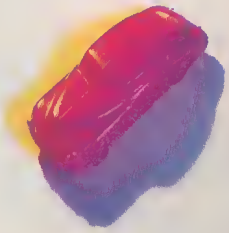

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The A-List

Continued from page 46

		Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*	More Info
Desktop Applications	Software Suite	Microsoft Office for Windows 95	**If you can buy just one software title, this should be it. Watch for new Web-publishing wizards soon.**	$399 (Standard Edition), 28MB to 89MB hard disk space.	Sept 1995, page 83 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 645
	Word Processor	Microsoft Word for Windows 95	**The de facto standard for businesses everywhere. For smart version control, check out Lotus's Word Pro.**	$300, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 8MB RAM.	May 1996, page 149 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 646
	Spreadsheet	Microsoft Excel for Windows 95	**It's a one-horse race, folks, and guess who's winning?**	$300, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 8MB RAM.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 647
	Database	Microsoft Access for Windows 95	**Finally! You don't have to be a power nerd to put this database to work. Watch for new Internet assistants.**	$300, Windows 95 or or Windows NT 3.51, 12MB RAM.	Jan. 1996, page 162 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 648
Graphics Applications		Microsoft PowerPoint for Windows 95	**Build a winning sales presentation on your lunch hour.**	$300, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 14MB to 35MB hard disk space.	March 1996, page 183 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 649
		Microsoft Publisher for Windows 95	**The ultimate vanity press: Create terrific-looking pages without even trying.**	$80, 386 CPU, 8MB RAM, 6MB hard disk space.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 650
		QuarkXPress 3.31 for Windows	**Produces pages as slick as the ones in your hands. PageMaker shops should check out PageMaker for Windows 95.**	$560, 486 CPU, 8MB RAM, 12MB to 15MB hard disk space.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 788-7835 Reader Service No. 651
		CorelDraw 6	**The all-in-one graphics toolkit for Windows 95: Draw, edit, and design your own masterpieces.**	$525, Windows 95, 486 CPU, 8MB RAM.	April 1996, page 101 (800) 772-6735 Reader Service No. 652
		Adobe Photoshop 3.0 for Windows	**A digital darkroom for your PC. And now there's a Windows 95/Windows NT upgrade.**	$549, 486 CPU, 8MB RAM, 20MB hard disk space.	April 1996, page 101 (800) 833-6687 Reader Service No. 653
Finance	Personal Finance	Intuit Quicken Deluxe 5 for Windows	**Never visit a bank again—this is branch-office checking from your hard drive.**	$59, 386 CPU, 4MB RAM, 7MB hard disk space.	Feb. 1996, page 159 (800) 624-8742 Reader Service No. 654
	Business Accounting	Intuit QuickBooks Pro 4.0	**Cheaper than your average accountant, and a lot easier to understand.**	$189, 486 CPU, 4MB RAM, 12MB hard disk space.	Feb 1996, page 92 (800) 624-8742 Reader Service No. 655
Communications	Fax-Communications Software	Symantec Delrina CommSuite 95	**One launchpad for all your Internet needs. Sends e-mail and faxes, too.**	$99, 486 CPU, 8MB RAM, 30MB hard disk space.	Nov. 1995, page 83 (800) 441-7234 Reader Service No. 656
	Web Browser	Netscape Navigator 2.0	**Still the best way to explore the Web. Download the latest version via www.pccomputing.com.**	$49, Windows 95, 4MB RAM, Internet access.	Jan 1996, page 108 (800) 638-7483 Reader Service No. 657
Tools and Utilities	Antivirus Software	Symantec Norton AntiVirus for Windows 95	**Fast and painless virus-hunting for Windows 95. Just in: a scanner for rogue Java applets.**	$79, Windows 95, 486 CPU, 8MB RAM.	Oct. 1995, page 116 (800) 441-7234 Reader Service No. 658
	Internet Search Engine	Digital Alta Vista	**A fast, accurate, and free way to find what you need on the Web. Check it out via www.pccomputing.com.**	Free, Internet access.	May 1996, page 68 Reader Service No 659
	System Utility	Symantec Norton Utilities for Windows 95	**Resuscitates dead files and diagnoses hardware problems before they happen. Everyone should have a copy.**	$119, Windows 95, 486 CPU, 8MB RAM.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 441-7234 Reader Service No. 660
	Web Phone	Quarterdeck WebTalk	**Free phone calling on the Web—try it while it's still legal.**	$49, Windows 95, 486 CPU, 8MB RAM, Internet access.	May 1996, page 66 (800) 683-6696 Reader Service No. 661

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—Janice J. Chen & Jim Forbes, *Windows Magazine*

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—Don Crabb, *Chicago Sun-Times*

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—*Jim Seymour, PC Magazine*

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—Robin Raskin, *FamilyPC Magazine*

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- MS Works 95
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- MS Money 4.0
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- GB 11ms EIDE Hard Drive
- B DRAM, 64-Bit PCI Graphics celerator
- CD-ROM Drive/3.5" Diskette Drive
- itron17 .26dp Monitor .9" viewable)
- Bay Tower Case
- + Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0
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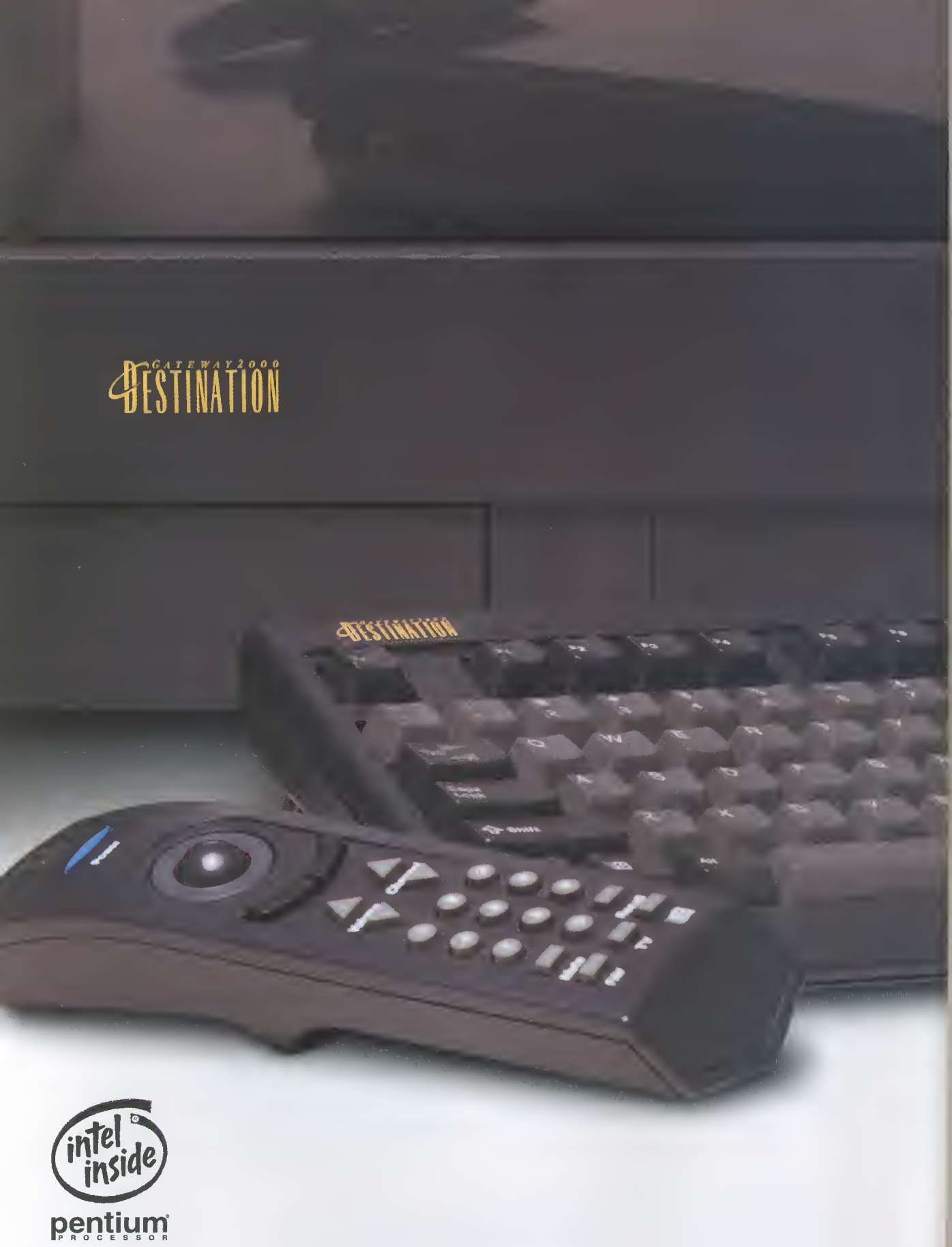

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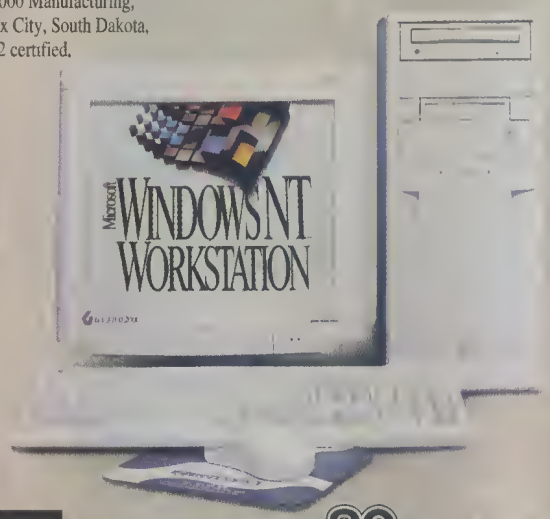

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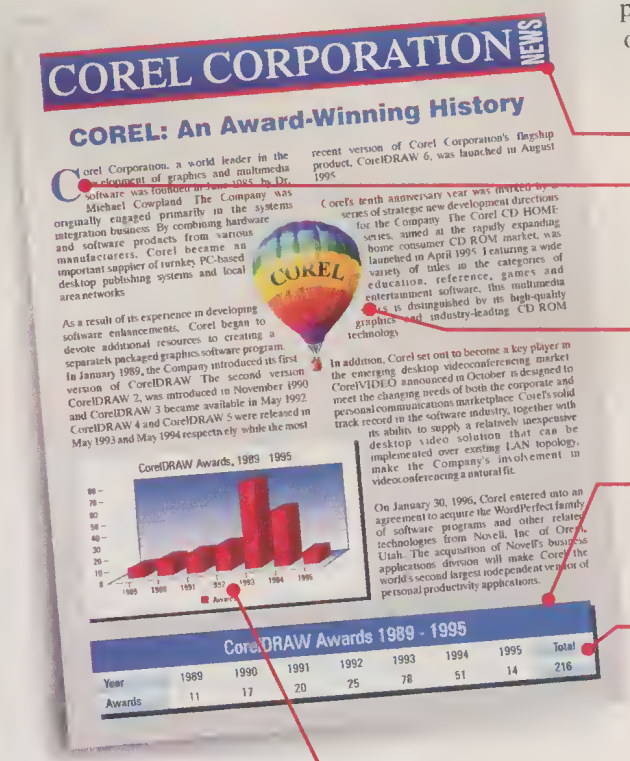

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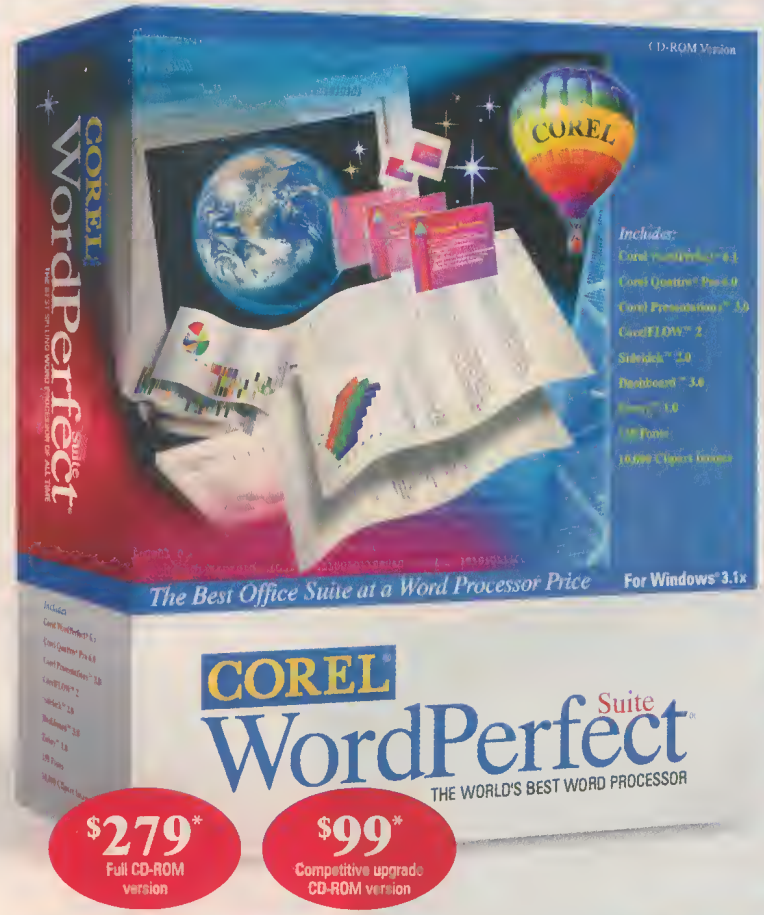

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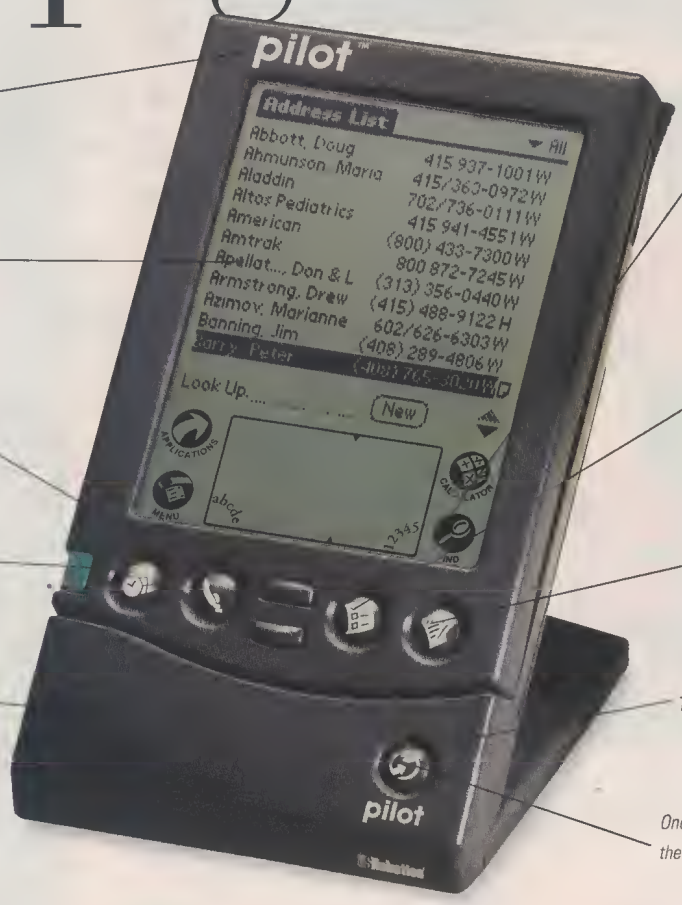

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Paul Somerson

Heat Seekers

Say the word *pioneer*, and people dredge up images of brainwashed '50s Russian youth groups chanting shopworn commie propaganda in **GOOFY, ILL-FITTING UNIFORMS** drooping with medals—or wagon trains of gaunt, spine-stiff, mud-caked sodbusters dodging whooping redskins and clattering over rutted sterile plains beside dour, bone-weary, hatchet-faced wives. Not a pretty picture.

But say the same word to any PC user, and the picture's even grimmer.

The term *PC pioneer* evokes terrible memories of blind protocol alleys, long-dead buses, quietly abandoned software, data-deadly dot-0 upgrades, bloody casualties of lost standards wars, technological trails littered with boards and peripherals that **NO LONGER PLUG INTO ANYTHING,** hardware totally lacking modern drivers, whole operating systems left to wither, whole lines of CPUs rotting pitifully before our eyes.

Some of these were simply ahead of their time. Some sounded good on paper, but proved too hard to implement properly. Some were rushed to market before they were done. Some were pipe dreams. A few were rock solid but lost in the marketing wars.

But you pioneers don't flinch. You laugh at caution. The friction is hypnotic, the sparks exciting. You're flat-out heat seekers.

Why? You're the leaders, the tastemakers, the trailblazers, the trendsetters, the early adopters, the ones at the sharp end of the stick. The huskies who understand that **UNLESS YOU'RE THE LEAD DOG THE VIEW IS PRETTY AWFUL.** You shrug aside comments about how the pioneers are easy to spot because of the arrows in their backs. It's hard for critics to aim arrows, you say, when they're left in your dust.

Besides, apart from the need to be at the head of the line and the desire for first-on-the-block bragging rights, you undergo this risky business for two main reasons.

First, you're technology lovers pure and simple. Secretly you wish you could fast-forward to the 21st century, or the 25th, or the 250th, to **SEE THE GIZMOS THEY'LL HAVE THEN.**

But more practically, you understand that the right technology gives you an incredible edge over the competition. You can kick the new magic into high gear while the laggards all frantically try to catch up. Any wounds you get in the process aren't fatal, and besides, our American culture is part risk-taking, part stomping the other guy. No pain, no gain. The upside is worth it.

That's why a lot of you are already using Windows NT. And why you **LAUGH AT THE MIDNIGHT LINES AT COMPUSA** because you've had beta software of the hottest new products for months. And why you're the ones gussied out today with Pentium Pros, Fast-Wide SCSI, Jaz drives, home ISDN, 128-bit graphics, and the rest. Vendors love you. The faster it comes, the better. Turn up the heat.

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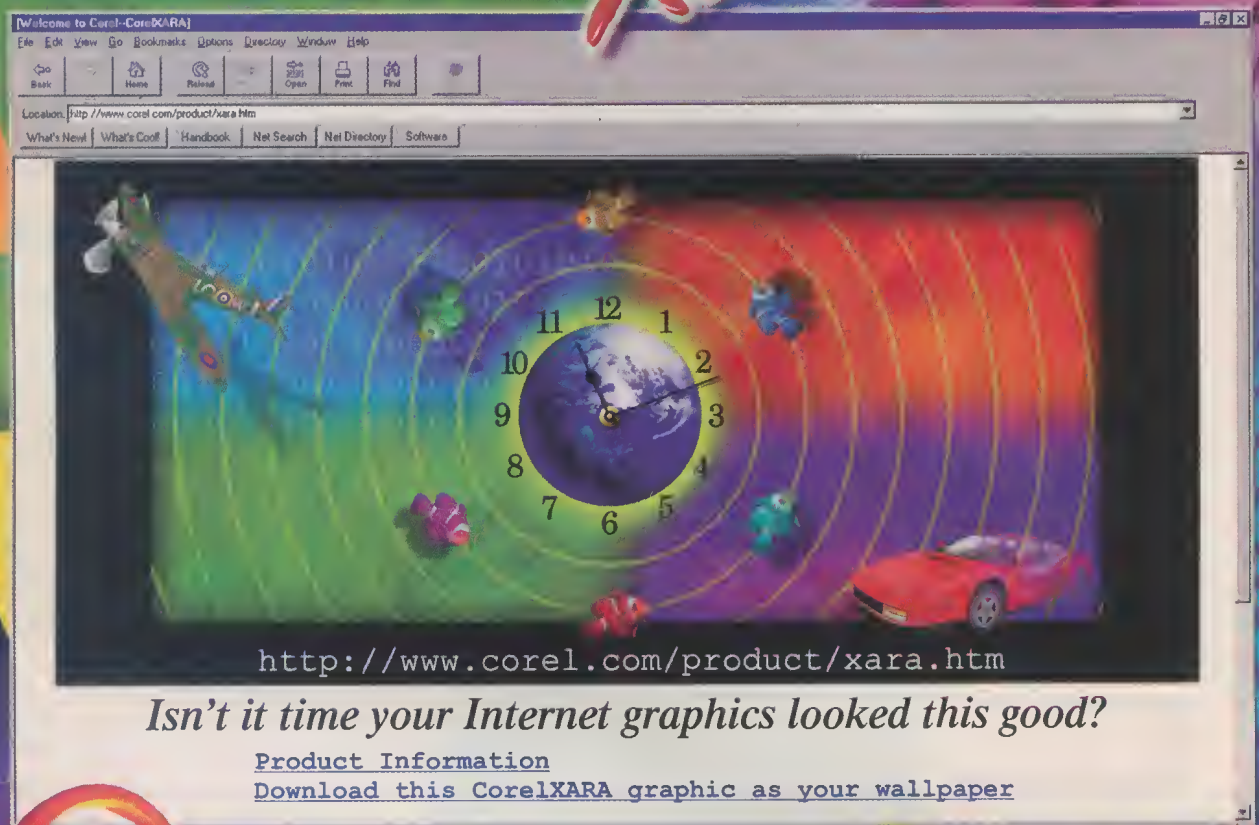

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John C. Dvorak

Meet the Press

This is my countercolumn to "Web, Schmeb" (March, page 61). I'm writing it because yet another report arrived on my desktop telling me that the World Wide Web managed to double its user base yet again in the last few months. I'm amused that people get all bubbly over these numbers without even trying to explain the phenomenon.

We need some serious research to determine what's happening.

The Web is probably the last great media invention of the 20th century. And the inventor of the Web—Tim Berners-Lee, a guy who doesn't get enough credit for his ideas—is the Gutenberg of the 20th century. I separate the Web from the Internet, which is nothing more than a delivery mechanism. If the Web hadn't cropped up, the Internet would be the same languishing network it was back in the days of ARPAnet: lots of newsgroups and e-mail between professors.

The Web continues a print tradition involving the written word that began with cave wall painting and continued through books, magazines, and newspapers. Movies, radio, TV, and to some extent CD-ROMs follow from a different track—the oral tradition. In some cases there's competition between print and oral media, as with newspapers and broadcast TV. But the competition within a media type is where the action takes place. Movies compete directly with plays and TV. TV changed radio forever. It's brutal.

So too will it be with the Web. The most pervasive print media are books, newspapers, and magazines. Almost as important are online publishers, including the information services (CompuServe, America Online, Prodigy) and individual BBS operators. If you look objectively at the strengths of the Web as a print publisher, you can see it knocks out almost all the other media with the possible exception of books. If it doesn't completely obliterate the competition, it will instigate change just as radio had to change once TV showed up.

When TV arrived people reckoned it would be the death blow to media stemming from all other visual and oral traditions. Movies would be dead for sure. Instead today's movie-related revenue defies those beliefs and, more interestingly, TV brought the movie into its world with the invention of the VCR. Media cross-pollinate. The possibility that this will happen again with the Web and its competition—newspapers and magazines—remains to be seen.

Plays and movies, for example, are a social phenomenon as well as a media phenomenon. People go to movies for the big-screen experience. They go to plays to interact with the actors and the audience. They want to be out and about. That's why video stores will never be replaced by video-on-demand. People like to go shopping and bump into other people. We're social beasts. If we weren't, TV would have decimated the movies and theater. Radio, meanwhile, requires little social interaction and suffers the most from TV. If radios weren't in cars (people can't watch TV while driving), radio wouldn't exist on any significant scale.

Take this logic to newspapers, magazines, and books. Here we have zero social interaction. The only social aspect might be a sixth-grade teacher getting students to talk about the books or news articles they read in class. In the year 2001, students will be able to complete such assignments just as easily by reading the material on a Web site before discussing it. So even the educational argument won't hold up.

Now let me backtrack a little to say that books may be able to stem the Web tide. They have singular characteristics and functions. For one thing, they contain a lot of information that is inconvenient to read on a computer screen or a printout. More importantly, though, they have a symbolic and a decorative function that newspapers and magazines don't. People put books on shelves to show off their interests. They collect books. They like to be surrounded by them. Books are objects of desire.

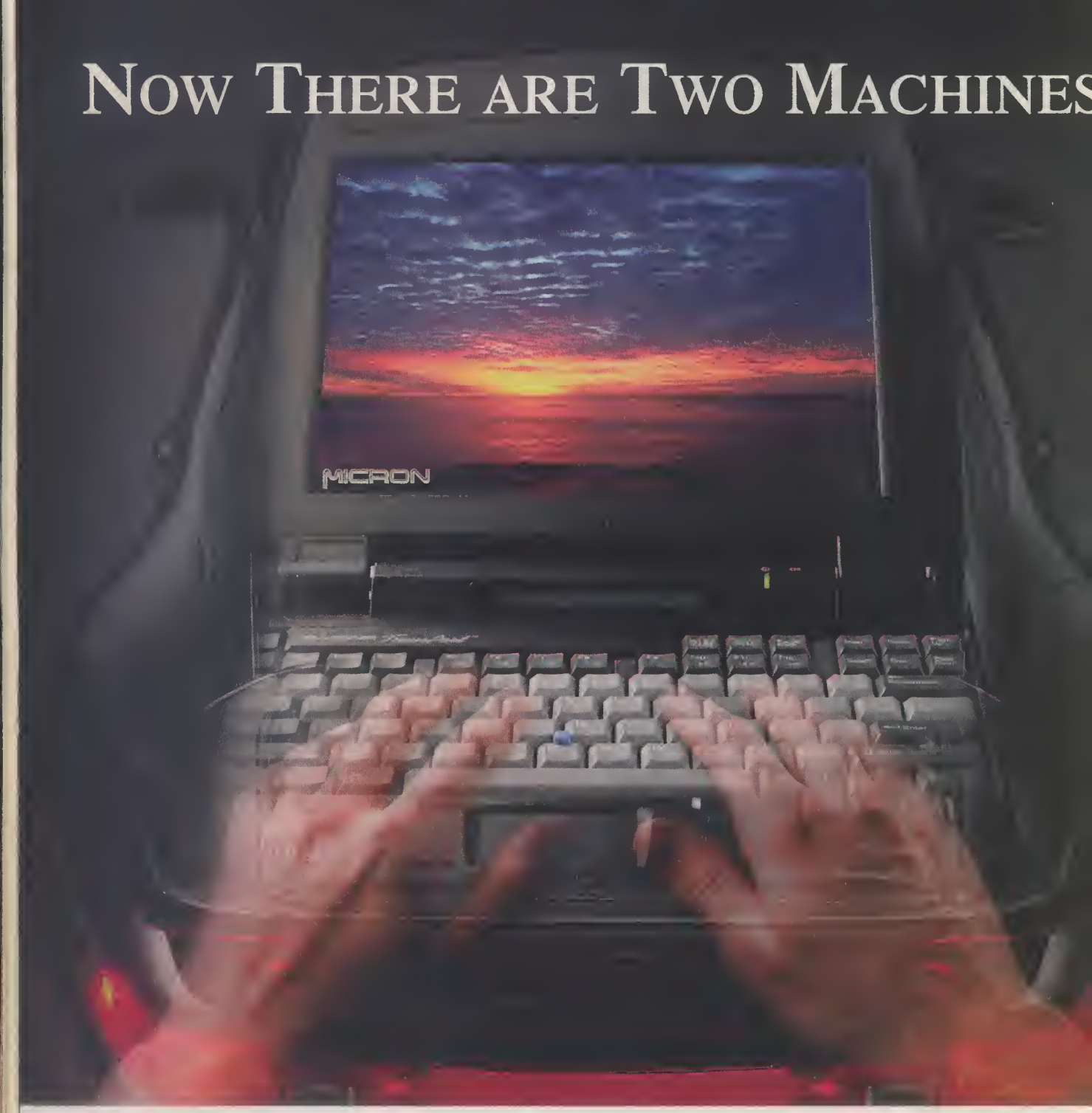
Although some magazines, usually found in expensive hotel suites, serve as decoration, most of them are shallow in content and disposable in nature. For the most part people toss them away when they're through with them. Old magazines can actually be humiliating—they remind people of a dentist's office. Newspapers are recycled as garbage or put on the bottom of a bird cage. Nobody would think of keeping them around the house as showpieces.

Magazines and newspapers have always had a temporary quality. All they offer in competition with the Web is a unique portability and a better way (so far) to display advertisements. But when you put the big checklist together with items like timeliness, interactivity, connection to outside resources, ease of modification, incorporation of sound and video, and many other features, you can see that the Web may ultimately become the medium of choice for newspapers and magazines in the 21st century.

It's **BRUTAL.** *The Web can* **OBLITERATE** *almost all other* **PRINT PUBLISHERS**—*including online services. It will be* **PREFERRED** *for magazines and newspapers in the* **21ST CENTURY.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES McGOON

NOW THERE ARE TWO MACHINES



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New!

Microsoft Windows NT 4.0

NT: Bulletproof Windows 95

SNEAK PREVIEW

Start me up? That has been the theme song for Microsoft since the company launched Windows 95 in August, but big business has been dancing to a different tune. Nearly a year later, the old Program Manager interface is still the standard on most corporate desktops. But that's about to change. As Windows 95 approaches its first anniversary, Microsoft is putting the finishing touches on a new release of its well-reared corporate operating system, Windows NT. The Windows 95 shell, complete with the Start button, has been grafted onto Windows NT 4.0. The first beta release appeared in February and, after putting it through its paces, we predict it will be another hit for Microsoft. The operating system is scheduled for release sometime this summer.

We focused on the Workstation version of Windows NT 4.0, although the Server version is scheduled for simultaneous release. Our CD included code for Intel x86 chips and for three RISC-based platforms: MIPS, Digital Alpha, and PowerPC. All versions include Microsoft's Internet Explorer 2.0 and Exchange mail client.

Simple Setup On test systems equipped with SCSI-based CD-ROMs, setup was smooth and easy. But our beta wouldn't install over a Windows 95 setup.

At first glance—and second and third glances, for that matter—you'd swear this was Windows 95. The desktop, Start button, and Taskbar are indistinguishable from their Windows 95 counterparts. Double-click on the My Computer icon and you won't see a difference there, either. Even advanced features like the Briefcase appear identical; we synchronized files and folders seamlessly between an NT desktop and a notebook running Windows 95.

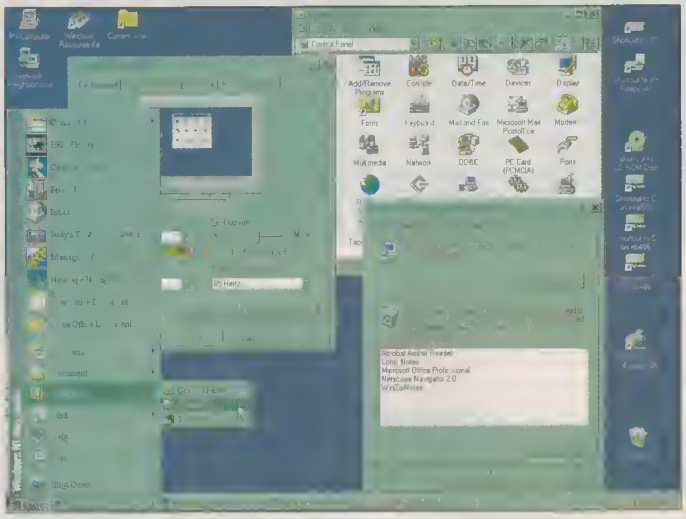
Still, a few elements are missing from the new NT shell. In the Control Panel, some applets are fully functional while others are a hodgepodge of old and new elements. We had to use the old-style Print Manager to map local ports to a networked printer, for example. Also, some accessories were incomplete or absent.

Missing in Action A few Windows 95 features haven't migrated to this version of Windows NT. In fact, the most eagerly awaited feature, Plug and Play support, won't make it into NT until at least 1997. It's not surprising that NT doesn't cooperate with Plug and Play. Windows NT's hardware abstraction layer (HAL), which guards against crashes by preventing direct contact between the operating system and hardware drivers, also prevents the Plug and Play code from doing its job. Blame the dearth of NT drivers on HAL, too—hardware makers have focused on Windows 95, which has drivers that aren't compatible with NT.

Power management is another no-show in Windows NT 4.0, so running NT on a notebook is an exercise in frustration. We had to shut down and restart our test notebook—a lengthy process on both ends—before it would recognize a freshly inserted PC Card. Switching to and from a docking station required the same tedious cycle.

Given NT's gray-flannel business orientation, it offers only token support for games and multimedia applications. Popular multimedia titles like The Seventh Guest and Myst wouldn't run on this beta. The Windows 95 Direct Draw and Direct Sound extensions will

OVERVIEW Windows 95 or Windows NT?



Looks Like 95: The Windows 95 interface was transferred intact to Windows NT 4.0. Only the logo beside the Start menu (lower left) gives it away.

Super Security: For extra protection (at an extra cost in system resources), Windows NT 4.0 will run 16-bit apps in a separate memory-address space. The Security tab lets users restrict access to files and folders from their own PC.

Guide to PC Computing's Ratings

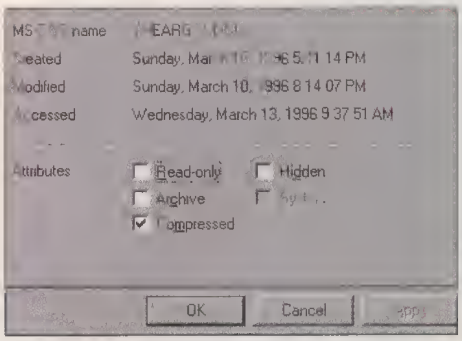
Excellent *Market leader that offers exceptional performance* ..... ★★★★★

Good *Excels in many areas; a good buy* ..... ★★★★

Acceptable *Average for its class; a justifiable purchase* ..... ★★★

Poor *Out-of-date or substandard; offset by some positive features* ..... ★★

Unacceptable *Missing necessary features; avoid* ..... ★



Squeeze Play: As long as you use the NT file system, just check a box to compress a file, a folder, or a drive.

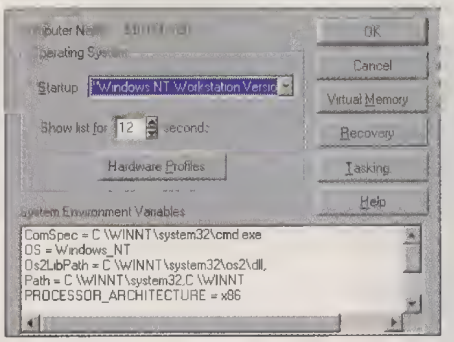
reportedly make it into the shipping release of NT 4.0, but the rest of the DirectX library will be strictly limited to Windows 95, making that the obvious entertainment platform.

Once you get past the missing pieces, there are plenty of new and improved features to wow corporate users and network administrators. Version 2.0 of the Windows Telephony API (TAPI) is built in, enabling a broad range of connections between computers and telephone systems. The latest object linking and embedding libraries—OLE 2.0—are included for 16- and 32-bit Windows applications.

For the security-conscious, the Workstation edition includes utilities for managing user accounts and setting file- and folder-level permissions. To lessen the impact of application crashes, users can specify that 16-bit apps run in their own virtual machines. On systems that replace the old-style file allocation table file system with the high-performance NT file system, file compression, autorecovery, and error checking are built in.

Most of the mainstream business programs we ran under Windows NT worked well, with only occasional display problems. Still, there were some applications, including Symantec's Delrina WinFax Pro 7.0, a 32-bit Windows 95 application, that simply wouldn't install. Inso's Quick View Plus appeared to install correctly, but it refused to hook into NT's Explorer.

We expect Microsoft's flagship Office applications to work flawlessly under any version of Windows, so it was no surprise that Word and Excel installed and ran without a glitch. The release notes warned us that we would have trouble with one Office-mate, though. Sure enough, the 32-bit Access crashed repeatedly, corrupting some data in the process. It's natural to encounter bugs in a first beta release of an operating system, and we expect most problems to be fixed by the summer release date. Still, given our early test results, we predict that some apps that run well under Windows 95 will have problems under Windows NT.



No Plug and Play: The System Properties dialog box contains confusing variables and no hardware information.

Early Look Because this is an early test release, we chose not to benchmark performance. But we were pleasantly surprised at how fast the beta ran overall. Previous versions of Windows NT have been gluttons for memory and CPU cycles. On a 100MHz 486 with 20MB of RAM we multitasked an assortment of RAM-hungry applications without bogging down the system. On a 150MHz Pentium with 32MB of RAM—our most powerful test PC—disk throughput, file transfers, and screen redraws were lightning fast. Because there's no 16-bit code in Windows NT, preemptive multitasking was also noticeably better than in Windows 95.

If you want a nearly bulletproof operating system, Windows NT is the logical choice. With this release, several key graphics functions now move into the unprotected memory space occupied by the NT kernel. Theoretically, this could jeopardize Windows NT's legendary stability, although we were able to bring down the operating system only once in a month of constant use on several machines.

Best Business Buy Windows NT 4.0's interface may be new, but its essential character hasn't changed. It still demands far more hardware than Windows 95. Setting up and configuring an NT workstation is easier than before, but still tricky and time-consuming. And in offices where the installed hardware base includes an assortment of video cards, sound cards, printers, and other devices, users will be frustrated by the lack of built-in drivers. Finally, if your primary computer is a notebook, you'll want to bypass this release.

For home users and most small businesses, Windows 95 will remain the operating system of choice. For big business, though, Windows NT 4.0 figures to be a welcome upgrade. **ED BOTT**

FILEBOX

Windows NT 4.0

Verdict: A promising early beta that merges the reliability of Windows NT with the interface grace of Windows 95. It's too early to rate—stay tuned for more in-depth testing.

Pros: The latest technologies—TAPI 2.0, OLE 2.0, NTFS—in a nearly bulletproof environment.

Cons: No Plug and Play, no power management, and limited support for games and multimedia titles.

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6x86 Supersystems

SNEAK PREVIEW

No doubt about it, Intel is feeling the heat. Polywell and HiQuality (HiQ) are among the first of what could become a stampede of PC makers to eagerly defect to Cyrix's 6x86 CPU. A sneak peek at two of the first 133MHz offerings confirms that they perform at least as fast as Intel's darling 166MHz Pentium.

All Bets Are Off We tested HiQ's C166+ PowerStation, which came with 16MB of EDO RAM, a 512K L2 cache, and Matrox's 64-bit Millennium video accelerator with 2MB of WRAM. When you outfit that same system with a 1.2GB EIDE hard drive, a six-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio, speakers, and a 17-inch monitor, the price comes to $2,295. Many slower 166MHz Pentiums sell for $1,500 more.

Polywell's Poly 686P8 lagged slightly behind both HiQ's PowerStation and the 166MHz Pentium we tested, IBM's Personal Computer 750, in performance. The Polywell system features 16MB of RAM, ATI's Video Xpression video accelerator with 2MB of synchronous DRAM, a six-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio, and a 17-inch monitor.

The Poly 686P8 comes with a 2.1GB EIDE hard drive. The system's L2 cache is only 256K, and memory is standard DRAM (EDO RAM is an option). With a larger cache and faster memory technology, the system's performance would likely have kept pace with HiQ's PowerStation.

More Than a Clone The first skirmishes between Intel's Pentium and Cyrix's 6x86 will center on price. But Intel faces a protracted and bitter war ahead. Cyrix's chip runs Windows 95 as fast as or faster than 166MHz Pentiums, and it includes many of the technologies that give Intel's flagship Pentium Pro a performance advantage when running NT.

The 6x86 can exploit the mixed 16- and 32-bit Windows 95 applications better than the powerful but pricey Pentium Pro. Yet it's also poised to run Windows NT apps at full throttle. Best of all, Cyrix's chip snaps right into motherboards designed for Intel CPUs. As a result, systems cost less and last longer before hitting the wall of maximum performance and obsolescence. MARTY JEROME

Pentium Killer: Watch your back, Intel. HiQuality Computer Systems' 133MHz Cyrix 6x86-based C166+ PowerStation performed better than 166MHz Pentiums—and costs nearly $1,500 less.

Ready for NT: Unlike Intel's Pentium, Cyrix's 6x86 chip is optimized for both 16- and 32-bit code, making Polywell's $2,770 Poly 686P8 ideal for running Windows 95—or NT.

FILEBOX

C166+ PowerStation

★★★★★

Verdict: Surprise! A 133MHz 6x86-based PC that outpaces 166MHz Pentium systems.

Features as Tested: 133MHz 6x86 CPU, 16MB of EDO RAM, 512K L2 cache, 1.2GB EIDE hard drive, six-speed CD-ROM drive, 64-bit video with 2MB of WRAM, 16-bit audio, 17-inch monitor.

$2,295 est. street price
HiQuality Computer Systems
(800) 827-5836, (408) 245-5836
Reader Service No. 672

Poly 686P8

★★★★

Verdict: Only slightly slower than the fastest 166MHz Pentiums.

Features as Tested: 133MHz 6x86 CPU, 16MB of RAM, 2.1GB EIDE hard drive, six-speed CD-ROM drive, 128-bit video with 2MB of SDRAM, 16-bit audio, 17-inch monitor.

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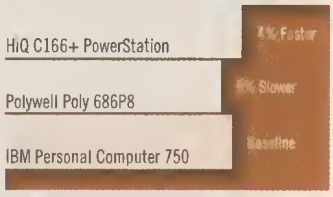
Cyrix vs. Intel
Windows 95 Application Performance

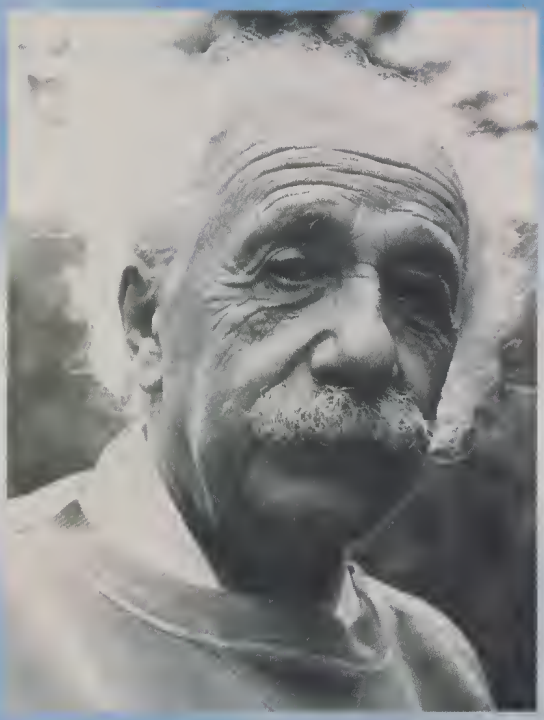


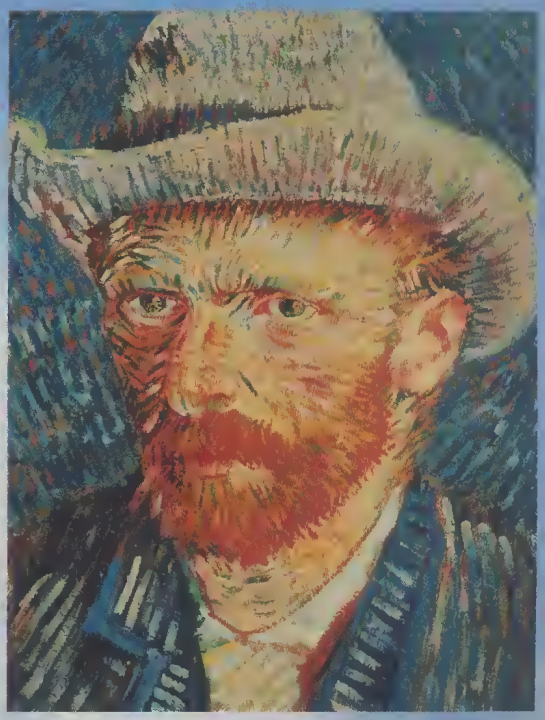
NOTE: WINSTONE 96 IS A TEST THAT RUNS 15 OF THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

Neck and Neck: When does 133 equal 166? New 133MHz 6x86 Pentium-class clones from HiQuality and Polywell performed on par with the fastest 166MHz Pentium, IBM's Personal Computer 750.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*





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Toshiba Tecra 720CDT

Portable Multimedia at Its Best

PREVIEW

Our three favorite words from the boss's mouth: *Get the best.* As multimedia portables go, IBM's ThinkPad 700CD series has been the best virtually since CD-equipped multimedia notebooks arrived more than two years ago. But Toshiba's new Tecra 720CDT now challenges that honor. It's exactly what the boss has in mind.

Step Aside, IBM The Tecra 720CDT is the first upgrade to Toshiba's top-of-the-line Tecra family. Powered by a 133MHz Pentium with a 256K L2 cache, the Tecra 720CDT features a large 12.1-inch active-matrix display capable of resolutions of up to 1,024 by 768 pixels with 65,000 colors—the first of its kind. The Tecra 720CDT also comes with the first removable six-speed CD-ROM drive we've seen in a portable.

These statistics should attest to the Tecra 720CDT's multimedia prowess, but seeing is believing. And see it, you should. The machine redefines state-of-the-art video for portables. Its screen—nearly an inch larger than today's industry-standard 11.3-inch panels—comfortably renders as much information as any 14-inch desktop monitor. Not surprisingly, it's the same active-matrix LCD panel used in IBM's top-drawer ThinkPad 760CD.

But unlike the ThinkPad, the Tecra 720CDT uses Chips & Technologies' new 64-bit HiQVideo accelerator chip with 2MB of EDO RAM. Toshiba will offer a less expensive ($6,999) version of the Tecra that supports only 800 by 600 pixels on the LCD.

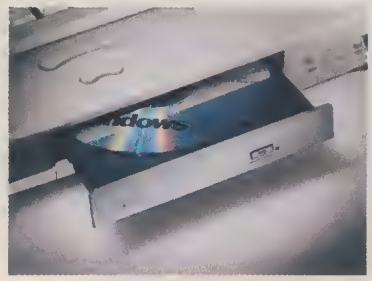
There are other reasons to like the Tecra's video. It features hardware-based Indeo and MPEG 1 compression for life-like video. The Tecra 720CDT is also the first to adopt the Zoom Video Standard. PC Cards that comply with this standard—video-capture cards, TV tuners, and MPEG 2 cards, for example—bypass both the system and PC Card buses to pump data directly to a Zoom Video–compliant video controller. The result is fewer dropped frames in full-motion video.

More Innovations As with the first version of the Tecra, usability is excellent on the 720CDT. Its keyboard doesn't quite match the ThinkPad 760CD's for layout and response, but its expansive wrist rest (which the ThinkPad lacks) more than compensates. The six-speed CD-ROM drive swaps out with a second battery or a floppy-disk drive, and 16-bit wavetable audio and a 28.8Kbps fax modem with an answering machine are now standard equipment.

IBM's ThinkPad 760CD comes with only a quad-speed CD, but it swaps out with a battery or a second hard drive. Meanwhile, the Tecra's 64-bit video accelerator, support for high resolutions, and six-speed CD-ROM drive make it a better desktop replacement.

The Tecra 720CDT's only drawback is price. At $7,499, it's one of the most expensive portables available. Then again, would you expect to pay less for the best? MARTY JEROME

Civilized Multimedia: The Tecra 720CDT is the first portable to include a 12.1-inch active-matrix screen with resolutions of up to 1,024 by 768 pixels, a 64-bit graphics controller, and a six-speed CD-ROM drive.



Double-Time Drives: The Tecra lets you swap the CD-ROM drive for a floppy drive—or use them both by connecting the floppy to its own external port.

FILEBOX

Tecra 720CDT

★★★★★

Verdict: The finest multimedia portable on the market—at least for now.

Pros: It takes notebook graphics and video to a new, civilized level.

Cons: Oh, my aching shoulders. Oh, my empty wallet.

Competition: IBM's ThinkPad 760CD offers built-in video support and a slightly more refined keyboard, but its display can't hit resolutions of 1,024 by 768 and its removable CD-ROM drive is a quad-speed model.

Features as Tested: 133MHz Pentium, 256K L2 cache, 16MB of EDO RAM, 1.13GB hard drive, removable six-speed CD-ROM drive, 12.1-inch high-resolution active-matrix display, 16-bit wavetable audio, dual speakers, 28.8Kbps fax modem with telephony, infrared port.

$7,499 est. street price
Toshiba America
(800) 999-4273, (714) 583-3000
Reader Service No. 674

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Windows NT at 200MHz

Still holding out until 1997 before you spring for a 200MHz Pentium Pro? Why wait? Two new top-of-the-line systems from Micron and Hewlett-Packard join a competing crowd that's already battering high-flying prices into near affordability.

Windows NT never had it so good. Micron's Pro 200 Magnum Plus outshone the company's own Millennium P133 Pentium system by a stunning 227 percent in Windows NT benchmark tests.

Everything Inside The Pro 200 Magnum Plus relies on more than just a speedy CPU for its performance. Our system came configured with 32MB of RAM (expandable to 256MB). There's a 256K L2 synchronous RAM (SRAM) cache. A 32-bit Ultra-SCSI Fast-2 controller runs on a PCI local bus. There's also Number Nine's 128-bit Imagine II video card stocked with 4MB of VRAM and onboard 3-D acceleration—a $400 upgrade from the standard 64-bit video accelerator with 2MB of EDO RAM.

As you'd expect from Micron, the system is a showcase of high-end technology: a 2GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive, a six-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio with a pair of Advent AV007 speakers, and a 17-inch monitor. You can also stock the minitower with a wide range of multimedia options.

A value-line PC it's not. But as configured, the Magnum Plus costs $5,549, some $2,000 cheaper than Hewlett-Packard's competing Vectra XU. You can prune the Magnum Plus's price by about $1,000 if you stick to the standard 64-bit video card and opt for a 2GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive. For basic business applications, this configuration is two-and-a-half times faster than a 133MHz Pentium.

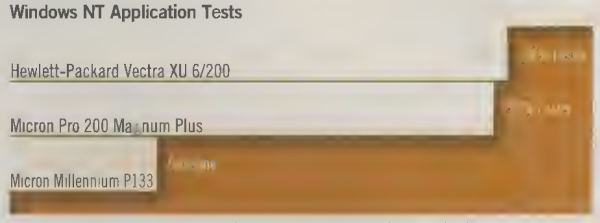
Vaulting Vectra Hewlett-Packard's $7,500 Vectra XU 6/200 supersedes the 6/150 as the company's flagship PC. While the machine supports dual CPUs, you can opt for the VT 6/200, which supports only one CPU and starts at a bearable $5,200.

The Vectra XU's minitower features 32MB of RAM (expandable to 256MB), a 256K L2 cache, a 2GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive, and Matrox's 64-bit MGA Millennium video card with 2MB of Window RAM. It nosed ahead of Micron's machine in our application tests (though a $7,200 version of the Magnum Plus, which comes with a whopping 64MB of RAM, easily outperformed the Vectra XU).

HP's Vectra is equipped for both multimedia and networks. There's a quad-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio, and Ethernet running on a local bus. Given its stellar performance and support for dual CPUs, the Vectra is an ideal high-end graphics and multimedia workstation. But if your budget forbids, Micron's Magnum Plus delivers fast 32-bit performance for less. MARTY JEROME

200MHz Blockbusters: If you're upgrading to Windows NT, Micron's Pro 200 Magnum Plus (left) and HP's Vectra XU 6/200 (right) are the fastest Windows NT systems around. The Vectra has a slight performance advantage but costs $2,000 more.

Pentium Pro Performance
Windows NT Application Tests



NOTE: PERFORMANCE SCORES ARE BASED ON 32-BIT APPLICATIONS RUNNING UNDER WINDOWS NT 3.51

Turbo NT: These 200MHz Pentium Pro systems each offers more than twice the performance of a vanilla 133MHz Pentium in our Windows NT application tests.

FILEBOX

Pro 200 Magnum Plus

★★★★★

Verdict: You won't find a faster Windows NT box for less.

Pros: It comes stocked with top-drawer technology—or have Micron build it your way.

Cons: Supports only one CPU; some multimedia and networking components will cost you extra.

Features as Tested: 200MHz Pentium Pro CPU, 256K L2 cache, 32MB of RAM (expandable to 128MB), 2GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive, six-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio with dual Advent AV007 speakers, Number Nine's 128-bit Imagine II video card with 4MB of VRAM and 3-D acceleration, 17-inch monitor.

$5,549 est. street price
Micron Electronics
(800) 515-9197, (208) 893-3434
Reader Service No. 675

Vectra XU 6/200

★★★★★

Verdict: No hemming or hawing—it's the best high-end system money can buy.

Pros: Support for two CPUs; built-in networking; all the extras are included.

Cons: Top-of-the-line performance has its price.

Features as Tested: 200MHz Pentium Pro with support for a second CPU, 256K L2 cache, 32MB of RAM (expandable to 256MB), 2GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive, quad-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio, Matrox's 64-bit MGA Millennium video card with 3-D acceleration, integrated Ethernet, 17-inch monitor.

$7,500 est. street price
Hewlett-Packard
(800) 752-0900

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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Workgroup Color at a Cost

Sticker shock isn't just for cars anymore. Digital Equipment's new high-end network color printer, the Colorwriter LSR 2000, offers laser-quality output and speeds, but costs as much as a healthy down payment on a luxury car.

This first-generation product from Digital uses the same Canon engine as Apple's Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS (see "High-Impact Color for the Whole Office," October 1995, page 81) and Lexmark's Optra C (see "Lightning-Fast Laser Color," March, page 70). The main difference between the Colorwriter and the other two Canon-based printers is the type of controller they use. The Colorwriter is the first color laser to incorporate EFI's Fiery XJE controller—the same one you'll find in many fast, high-end color copiers.

Get Connected The Colorwriter comes standard with several ports—Centronix parallel, Ethernet, and SCSI — and can easily sit at the end of any mixed-environment network. The printer's rated engine speed is 12 ppm for black text and up to 3 ppm for color—fast enough to service most small to medium-size workgroups.

Setting up the Colorwriter wasn't quite as easy as with other color lasers we've tested. The stumbling block was its accompanying documentation, which assumes a level of expertise with color laser printers that few are likely to have. However, we persevered through some trial and error to get the printer up and running.

Slow Going In our tests the Colorwriter performed more slowly than expected—particularly considering it has a 100MHz onboard processor. The Colorwriter took almost as long to print a 3-page color presentation as Hewlett-Packard's comparable Color LaserJet 5M did, and was about 25 percent slower than Lexmark's Optra C. The Colorwriter outperformed the Optra C in our 4-page color newsletter test, but was still over 20 percent slower than the Color LaserJet 5M. The Colorwriter was also slower at printing plain text than any other color laser printer we've tested; it was nearly 150 percent slower than Lexmark's Optra C.

Slower speeds would be an acceptable trade-off if the Colorwriter's output were head and shoulders above its competitors, but that isn't the case. At first glance, solid-color output looked nice. Upon closer inspection, however, backgrounds (like those in presentations) appeared blotchy and not as uniform as on pages produced by Lexmark's Optra C and HP's Color LaserJet 5M.

Photographic output was smooth and colors were relatively true when printing standard corporate documents and presentations. Graphics-heavy pages, however, look better when produced by Tektronix's high-quality Phaser 550 (see "Art That Means Business," April, page 106). We also found that the Colorwriter's colors weren't as vibrant as those from Lexmark's Optra C and HP's Color LaserJet 5M, which both deliver richer, darker hues overall.

Another drawback to the Colorwriter is its hefty price tag. At $13,999, it's the most expensive color laser in its class. For high-quality color laser output at a reasonable price, Lexmark's speedy $6,400 Optra C is a better buy. KYLA K. CARLSON

Life with a Laser: Digital's Colorwriter LSR 2000 offers continuous-tone 600-dpi output and built-in networking support. But expect to pay twice as much for the Colorwriter as you would for competing lasers with the same features.

Basic Color: The Colorwriter LSR 2000's photographic output was adequate, with smooth skin tones and acceptable color overall. Black-text output, on the other hand, was washed out.

FILEBOX

Colorwriter LSR 2000

★★★

Verdict: A capable but pricey network color laser.

Pros: Integrated networking features; smooth continuous-tone output.

Cons: When connected over a standard parallel port, print speeds aren't very high; the price is a bit steep.

Competition: Apple's Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS and Lexmark's Optra C are built around the same Canon laser printer engine, but they're faster, more affordable, and deliver better output. HP's Color LaserJet 5M offers comparable speeds and better output quality.

Features as Tested: 32MB of RAM, PostScript Level 2.

Resolution: 600 dpi for black and color.

Cost per Page: 4 cents for black; 16 cents for color.

$13,999 list price
Digital Equipment Corp.
(800) 344-4825
Reader Service No. 677

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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Dollar-Stretching SOHO PCs

SNEAK PREVIEW

Lest you *still* believe that a brand-name pedigree adds hundreds of dollars to the price of a system, you need only take a hard look at the new 133MHz Pentium PCs from NEC Technologies and Hewlett-Packard. Both come loaded to the nines and are poised in price to duke it out with any value-line system.

Designer Bargain Had NEC packed anything else into its latest set of Ready systems, it would have been overkill. There are seven new Pentium models in all—ranging from 120MHz to 166MHz. The 133MHz Ready 9617, which we tested, ships with 16MB of RAM, a 1.6GB hard drive, a six-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio, dual speakers (8 watts per channel), hardware-based MPEG playback, a 28.8Kbps fax modem with an answering machine, an integrated microphone, an infrared port, and remote control for audio and telephony. That's just for starters.

The price for this booty is $2,099 sans monitor. As configured, the Ready 9617 is an excellent multimedia small-office/home-office (SOHO) platform. With a gorgeous 17-inch MultiSync XU17 monitor, the price leaps to $2,698—hardly a budget breaker.

The Ready's only weak link in multimedia is video—it comes with a 64-bit graphics controller from Cirrus Logic but just 1MB of VRAM, which limits you to displaying 256 colors at 1,024 by 768 pixels. Adding a measly megabyte to the accelerator would have greatly increased the system's video quality. Otherwise, the machine comes with a raft of software including NEC's Merlin, an arm-flapping, interactive, multimedia magician that shows Windows 95 newbies the ropes. For multimedia on a budget, the Ready 9617 is an unbeatable machine.

Big Names, Little Prices: New 133MHz Pentium SOHO systems from Hewlett-Packard (left) and NEC (right) are feature-packed, and priced to compete in the penny-pinching trenches. Both include 64-bit graphics cards, 1MB of VRAM, 16-bit audio, speakers, a 28.8Kbps modem, and software.

Small Scans: No, it's not a floppy drive. It's HP's built-in 400-dpi color-photo scanner. It accepts images of up to 5 by 7 inches—handy for simple scans of business cards and snapshots, but not much else.

That's Not All Hewlett-Packard's Pavilion 7100 series features six Pentium models ranging from 120MHz to 166MHz. And like NEC's Ready line, these Pavilions pack in everything but the kitchen sink. HP's 133MHz Pavilion 7130P, which we tested, even features an unusual 400-dpi color-photo scanner tucked right under the CD-ROM drive. It accepts images as large as 5 by 7 inches.

With a base price of $2,649, the 7130P costs significantly more than the Ready 9617. Those extra dollars buy you a 256K L2 cache and the scanner. Otherwise the two machines stack up almost evenly.

Like NEC's Ready 9617, the Pavilion 7130P includes a 1.6GB hard drive, a six-speed CD-ROM drive, and a 28.8Kbps fax modem with an answering machine (but thankfully, no remote control—who needs another?). The Pavilion 7130P also includes S3's 64-bit Trio 64V graphics accelerator with 1MB of VRAM and MPEG 1 support. The integrated audio supports 3-D surround sound, although wavetable support is an option. A pair of Altec Lansing speakers (1.25 watts per channel) attaches to any of the Pavilion's display options. And the machine comes with a veritable wheelbarrow of software, including Microsoft's Works and Intuit's Quicken.

When you include a 17-inch monitor, the cost of the Pavilion 7130P jumps to $3,398. In other words, for a premium over the price of NEC's Ready 9617, you get better overall performance for business applications, but poorer performance for multimedia. Which machine is better? Let your applications lead the way. MARTY JEROME

FILEBOX

Pavilion 7130P

★★★★

Verdict: Built for business, priced for the home.

Pros: Speedy performance, a built-in scanner, and all the extras.

Cons: What? A mere single megabyte of VRAM on a top performer like this?

$3,398 est. street price
Hewlett-Packard
(800) 724-6631

Ready 9617

★★★★

Verdict: Packs everything but the kitchen sink for less than three grand.

Pros: This machine begs for multimedia, especially when outfitted with a 17-inch monitor.

Cons: The configuration stops just shy of first-rate video with its 1MB of VRAM.

$2,698 est. street price
NEC Technologies
(800) 632-4636
Reader Service No. 679

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARNOLO TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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Bare-bones Multimedia Bargain

Send in a budget request for an $8,000 multimedia portable and wait for the peals of laughter. A better idea? Get IBM's ThinkPad 365 CSD—it delivers full multimedia for less than $2,500.

The ThinkPad 365 CSD is an entry-level multimedia portable to be sure: It comes with a wimpy 75MHz 486DX4 processor and a dual-speed CD-ROM drive that can't be removed. In addition, its dual-scan passive-matrix display supports only 256 colors, and you get just one speaker.

But there's more to this machine than meets the eye. The display is a generous 10.4 inches, and it exhibits radiant colors. A full complement of audio jacks, including a MIDI joystick port, are standard. As multimedia goes, the ThinkPad 365 CSD is a solid package.

Blast the Budget: IBM's $2,499 ThinkPad 365 CSD packs more than meets the eye, including a double-speed CD-ROM drive and a bright 10.4-inch display.

And you get the high usability that's become the ThinkPad's trademark. Even without a wrist rest, the keyboard is still the best in the business.

Also onboard are two PC Card slots and an infrared port. And on top of that, the system weighs only 6.5 pounds.

No, it's not an ideal platform for presentations. But for the growing panoply of multimedia applications, the ThinkPad 365 CSD makes an excellent, inexpensive traveling companion. MARTY JEROME

FILEBOX

ThinkPad 365 CSD

★★★★

Verdict: As CD-equipped portables go, this one's a bona fide bargain.

Pros: Seductive price.

Cons: 486 performance; double-speed CD-ROM drive.

Competition: Only Canon's Innova Book 350CD delivers as much multimedia for the price, but IBM offers better usability.

Features as Tested: 75MHz 486 CPU, 8MB of RAM, 540MB hard drive, double-speed CD-ROM drive, 10.4-inch dual-scan passive-matrix display, 16-bit audio, two Type II PC Card slots, infrared port.

$2,499 est. street price
IBM
(800) 772-2227
Reader Service No. 680

Hewlett-Packard NetBeamIR LAN Access Point

Cable-free Network Connections

As portables challenge desktop computers, the need for super-simple, walk-up LAN access is surging. Advances in infrared technology have transformed Hewlett-Packard's NetBeamIR LAN access point from a techno-temptation to a no-brainer solution.

You can use NetBeamIR with any Infrared Data Association (IrDA)–compliant portable to instantly connect to your 10Base2 or 10Base-T network. It works with Microsoft's Windows NT and Novell's NetWare networks, and transfers files at rates of up to 4MBps.

Using Microsoft's Infrared Communications driver, the NetBeamIR automatically connected an infrared-equipped notebook to our NetWare network. However, the connection failed when we moved the portable more than 3 feet from the NetBeamIR.

Instant Infrared: HP's NetBeamIR LAN access point provides a quick way to connect your infrared-equipped portable to your network.

Once on the network, we had all the advantages of a hardware connection, with access to files and printers. And we were able to easily change connection warnings with NetBeamIR's software, as well as the amount of time before the unit dropped a connection due to beam obstruction or distance.

The NetBeamIR is an adequate choice for wireless networking. Later this year, however, Extended Systems' JetEye Net will be available, matching all of NetBeamIR's features for around $40 less. Stay tuned. RICH SCHWERIN

FILEBOX

NetBeamIR LAN Access Point

★★★

Verdict: An affordable, efficient way to connect infrared-equipped portables to networks.

Pros: Easy network setup; instant detection and log-on.

Cons: Works only within a 3-foot range; requires an unobstructed beam pathway.

Features: 4MBps transfer rate, compatible with NetWare and Windows NT.

$289 list price
Hewlett-Packard
(800) 533-1333
(916) 786-8000

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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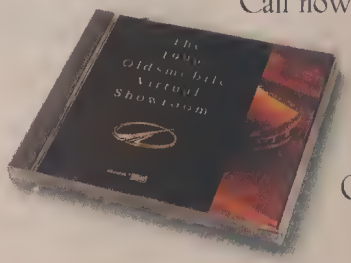

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Lighter, Brighter Presentations

Portable presentation hardware can be hazardous to your health. If you're not lugging around huge, back-breaking machines, you're squinting at dim images cast by a weak light source. Lightware's Viewpoint is a lightweight LCD data and video projector that cures these ills for a price that won't make you wince.

Weighing in at a mere 9 pounds, the Viewpoint has the heft of your average notebook computer—it's feather-light by LCD projector standards, but there's nothing lightweight about its performance. The Viewpoint delivers bright, crystal-clear images. A protective lens pops up for presentations, and a single-cable hookup means there's less to carry and set up. The halogen bulbs are easy to replace.

As for standard projector features, the Viewpoint measures up to the competition. It has respectable 640-by-480-pixel resolution, built-in speakers, and full-screen video. It also has zoom, tracking, and volume controls that can be adjusted on the unit or by remote. It would be nice if the controls were illuminated to make them visible in a dark room. But that's a minor quibble for a lightweight, low-cost projector that makes it a cinch to take your show on the road. JULIE McCULLOUGH

Pop-up Projection: Lightware's Viewpoint projector has a pop-up lens that folds into the unit for easy storage. The Viewpoint offers crisp images and multimedia—and weighs less than 10 pounds.

FILEBOX

Viewpoint

★★★★

Verdict: A superlightweight projector that's made for presentations on the road.

Pros: Finally, the portability we've been waiting for, with no sacrifice in image quality.

Cons: Price could be even lower; needs illuminated controls.

Competition: InFocus Systems' LitePro LCD projectors are sophisticated and their prices are dropping, but they weigh nearly twice as much.

Features as Tested: 6.5-inch LCD panel with 640-by-480-pixel resolution; 16.7 million colors; full-screen NTSC, PAL, and SECAM video; VGA and VESA PC 98 video compatibility; built-in stereo speakers; amplifier; remote control.

$6,500 est. street price
Lightware
(800) 255-9469, (503) 641-7873
Reader Service No. 682

Dell Dimension XPS P166s

Turbocharge Your Desktop

Components count—at least sometimes. Dell's new Dimension XPS P166s teems with some of the newest, fastest technologies you'll find in PCs today. Despite a new supercharged PCI chip set, synchronous DRAM, and a 128-bit graphics accelerator, it barely outpaces the original 166MHz Dimension.

Mind you, performance won't leave you wanting. Graphics performance, in particular, was stunning, thanks to Number Nine's Imagine II graphics card stocked with 4MB of VRAM. It features a 3-D accelerator running on a true 256-bit video engine.

The new Dimension also features a Western Digital 2.5GB Enhanced IDE (EIDE) hard drive and a TEAC six-speed EIDE CD-ROM drive. Creative Labs' 16-bit Vibra audio is integrated on the motherboard, but there's no wavetable support.

Should you be dismayed that the new Dimension, with its leading-edge technology, doesn't perform much better than the old Dimension? Not at all: Both machines are two of the fastest 166MHz Pentium systems money can buy. MARTY JEROME

Tricked Out: Dell's Dimension XPS P166s sports a 128-bit graphics card and a 2.5GB hard drive.

FILEBOX

Dimension XPS P166s

★★★★

Verdict: One of the fastest 166MHz PCs you can buy.

Features as Tested: 166MHz Pentium CPU, 512K Level 2 cache, 16MB of RAM, Western Digital's 2.5GB EIDE hard drive, Teac's six-speed CD-ROM drive, Number Nine's Imagine II graphics card, 16-bit audio with FM synthesis, 17-inch monitor.

$3,799 est. street price
Dell Computer Corp.
(800) 613-3355, (512) 338-4400
Reader Service No. 683

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

¶

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[illegible] 1996

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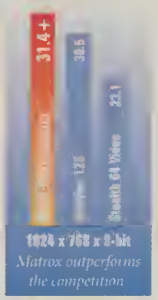

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Estimated street/selling price of the 2 MB version Free CD ROM available in retail packaging only Windows 95 tests conducted by Matrox Graphics Inc. using Ziff Davis Winbench 96 on a Gateway P5 133 MHz system with 256k cache 16M EDO RAM at 1024 x 768 in 256 colors 72 Hz large fonts The Matrox MGA Millennium and Diamond Stealth 64 Video were were configured with 2 MB of memory and the Number Nine Imagine 128 was configured with 4 MB of memory for the PCI bus using driver releases 2.20 4.1 and 1.04 respectively

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Circle 154 on reader service card.

Corel WordPerfect Suite 7

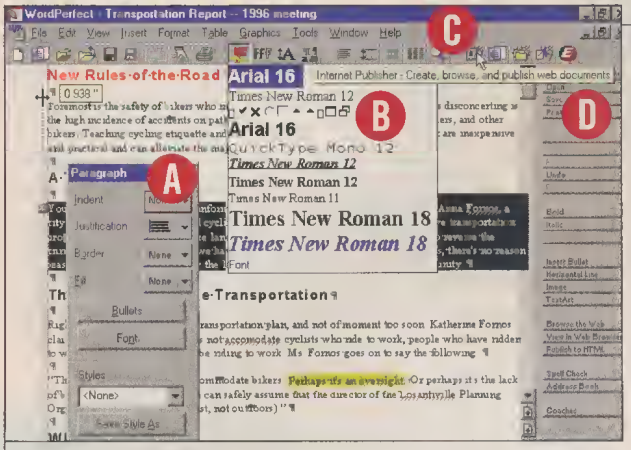
The Perfect Office Toolkit?

SNEAK PREVIEW

WordPerfect is officially dead. But it has been reincarnated as part of Corel's WordPerfect Suite 7, which includes half a dozen other major applications that were revamped for Windows 95. The bundle is a tardy reply to its rivals, Microsoft's Office and Lotus's SmartSuite. But WordPerfect Suite's combination of hot software and low price—starting at as little as $99—means the race for the best application suite is far from over.

WordPerfect Suite ships in a total of four flavors. You can choose from a standard or professional edition, each of which is available in 16-bit Windows 3.1 or 32-bit Windows 95 editions. Both the standard and professional editions contain products that were part of its predecessor, PerfectOffice. Those include WordPerfect, Quattro Pro, Presentations, Desktop Application Director, or DAD (for cross-application tasks), and Envoy (which publishes documents with a built-in reader for those who don't have WordPerfect).

In addition, all versions of the suite include Netscape's Navigator, CorelFlow, a screen saver, and a truckload of fonts and clip art. You'll also find Starfish Software's SideKick information manager and Dashboard program launcher. The professional edition adds Borland's Paradox, Novell's GroupWise, and Corel's InfoCentral (a combination scheduler and personal information manager). Most of the applications include an assortment of handy new features that make the software far easier to use. But the most impressive additions to WordPerfect Suite are the Internet smarts for its core applications.



Office in a Box: Corel's WordPerfect Suite 7 contains a wide collection of business-productivity apps, including Quattro Pro, Presentations, CorelFlow, and Netscape's Navigator. The professional edition adds Paradox and GroupWise. The cult-classic word processor, WordPerfect, is still the centerpiece of the suite.

A. In WordPerfect, **hotspots** appear next to paragraphs and tables in your documents. Clicking on a hotspot opens a dialog box with formatting options.

B. **QuickFonts** displays the last ten fonts that were used, showing them in the actual typefaces and sizes.

C. Toolbar buttons provide quick access to **Web-publishing** tools and the Internet.

D. The **DAD Taskbar** lets you quickly launch your favorite applications.

Internet Everywhere A click on the toolbar in any of the applications launches Netscape's Navigator. And for WordPerfect or Quattro Pro users, creating documents for the Internet doesn't get any easier. Both apps open and save HTML files, letting users create Web documents with the WYSIWYG formatting tools they're already familiar with.

While working on an HTML file, the apps block any formatting features that can't be displayed on the Web. Quattro Pro also includes hotlinks to Internet sites that provide financial news, stock quotes, and engineering conversions, letting you incorporate the information into your spreadsheets. All the applications publish files in Envoy, so anyone can read them as local files or Internet documents.

Common Code The standard edition improves on one of the failings of its previous incarnation—a lack of consistency among menus, toolbars, and dialog boxes. WordPerfect, Quattro Pro, Presentations, and DAD are PerfectFit

FILEBOX

WordPerfect Suite 7

★★★

Verdict: A terrific upgrade for current PerfectOffice users, though it lacks the cross-app consistency of Microsoft's Office and Lotus's SmartSuite.

Pros: Provides plenty of Internet publishing and browsing smarts from within most apps.

Cons: Because the applications were developed by different companies, the toolbars and features aren't consistent across all apps.

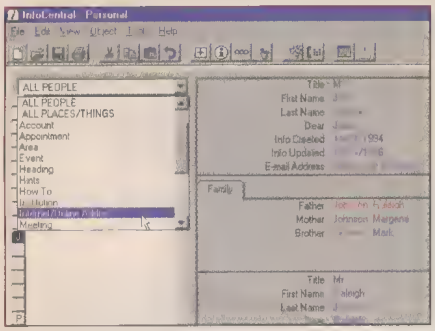
Competition: Microsoft's Office and Lotus's SmartSuite have offered Windows 95 versions for a while. Although WordPerfect Suite contains a broader mix of applications, including Web publishing tools and a copy of Netscape's Navigator, it can't match Microsoft's Office and Lotus's SmartSuite for cross-application consistency.

System Requirements: Windows 95 or Windows 3.1, 486 CPU, 8MB of RAM (12MB or more recommended).

Components: The standard edition contains Corel's WordPerfect, Quattro Pro, Presentations, Envoy, and CorelFlow; Starfish's SideKick and Dashboard; and Netscape's Navigator. The professional edition adds Borland's Paradox, Novell's GroupWise, and Corel's InfoCentral.

$279 est. street price for standard edition,
$99 for competitive upgrade;
$500 est. street price for professional edition,
$180 for competitive upgrade
Corel Corp.
(800) 451-5151
Reader Service No. 691

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*



In Contact: Keep tabs on contacts and scheduling information with InfoCentral. Entries import easily into the other WordPerfect Suite apps.

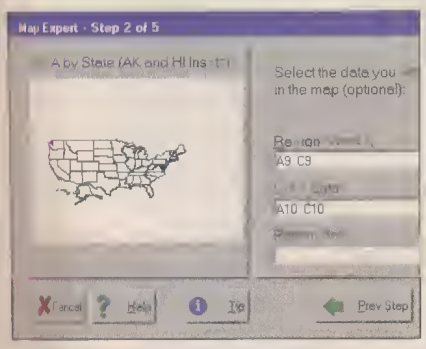
applications, sharing the same code for features with just a few minor exceptions. Unfortunately, these common features are still missing from the professional edition's InfoCentral, GroupWise, and Paradox.

Smart Scripts Macro tools extend throughout the applications and share code using PerfectScript, a superset of the individual applications' macro languages. For example, you can record a macro to define a range in Quattro Pro, copy the range to WordPerfect, and then apply formatting. Anyone who spent a lot of time creating macros in earlier versions of PerfectOffice will be happy to know that all those macros work in the new suite.

Still other links tie applications together. Fax and letter templates in WordPerfect, for example, can tap into information such as the names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses in InfoCentral and SideKick, although we were unable to test these features in our early beta version of the suite.

DAD is integrated into the Windows Taskbar, adding icons for all the WordPerfect Suite applications. You can add any other applications to the Taskbar as well. DAD also includes more than 60 prebuilt macros, called QuickTasks, that automate common jobs such as making financial projections, building Web pages, and consolidating e-mail from different sources. The idea is to get away from application-centric computing and focus on getting the job done regardless of what program you need. In fact, one QuickTask is a link to an Internet site where you can download new QuickTasks posted by Corel.

Consistency Counts WordPerfect Suite, with its legacy of apps from Borland, doesn't have the consistency of Microsoft's Office. Some of the inconsistencies are almost comical. For example, a feature of the PerfectFit applications' File, Open dialog box is QuickList, which allows you to jump to selected directories. Paradox doesn't have QuickList, but it does have a feature called Alias, which performs essentially the same task. Corel could have at least changed the name to QuickList.



Data Maps: Map Expert, a new mapping feature in Quattro Pro, translates demographic data into different colors and patterns on maps.

Some of the other inconsistencies are tragic. WordPerfect's and Presentations' customizing feature, which lets you modify menus, toolbars, and keyboard layouts, is missing from the other applications. Even so, WordPerfect Suite provides a lot of interconnectivity between apps, making it easier and faster to accomplish tasks. Unfortunately, many useful functions aren't included in all of the apps. CorelFlow, SideKick, and Dashboard weren't included in our beta, and chances are these applications won't bring much more consistency to the suite's already muddled mix.

For consolation, WordPerfect Suite users can look to several new and improved minor enhancements scattered throughout all the applications. Our favorite is QuickCorrect, a tool that automatically fixes typos caused by depressing the Caps Lock key. The suite's help system gets a sleight-of-hand boost from PerfectExpert, which lets users type questions in common English and directs them to the correct help topics.

Some of the improvements in WordPerfect mimic those already seen in Microsoft's Word and Lotus's Word Pro. QuickFonts, for example, displays a menu of the last ten fonts that were used, in the correct typefaces and sizes. Format-As-You-Go provides bulleted and numbered paragraphs so you don't have to break your writing stride. Hotspots—small squares that automatically crop up in documents—give you context-sensitive, one-stop shopping for necessary formatting tools. Quattro Pro now has 100 new functions, data mapping, and easier formula composing.

Hidden Improvements Many of the improvements in the 32-bit Windows 95 version of WordPerfect Suite are hidden. All the programs are built around 32-bit code, which should result in faster operations (a claim we were unable to test in this early version). The 32-bit suite also takes advantage of Windows 95's multithreading, letting you surf the Web or print in the background. It also offers full OLE 2.0 support across all the applications.

The hidden improvement most likely to be appreciated by veteran WordPerfect users is that the word processor no longer keeps its preference options in a BIF configuration file, which easily became corrupted in WordPerfect 6.1.

Easy Templates: The dozens of fill-in templates that come with Presentations let you create professional slide shows with minimal effort.

WordPerfect Suite is the last of the big three suites to join the Windows 95 rally. Whether it's too late to be a winner may depend on how well Corel can engineer the types of bundling deals that have accelerated the spread of Microsoft's Office. But for loyal WordPerfect, Quattro Pro, and PerfectOffice users who've resisted the temptation to switch office-suite brands, the wait has been well worthwhile. **RON WHITE**

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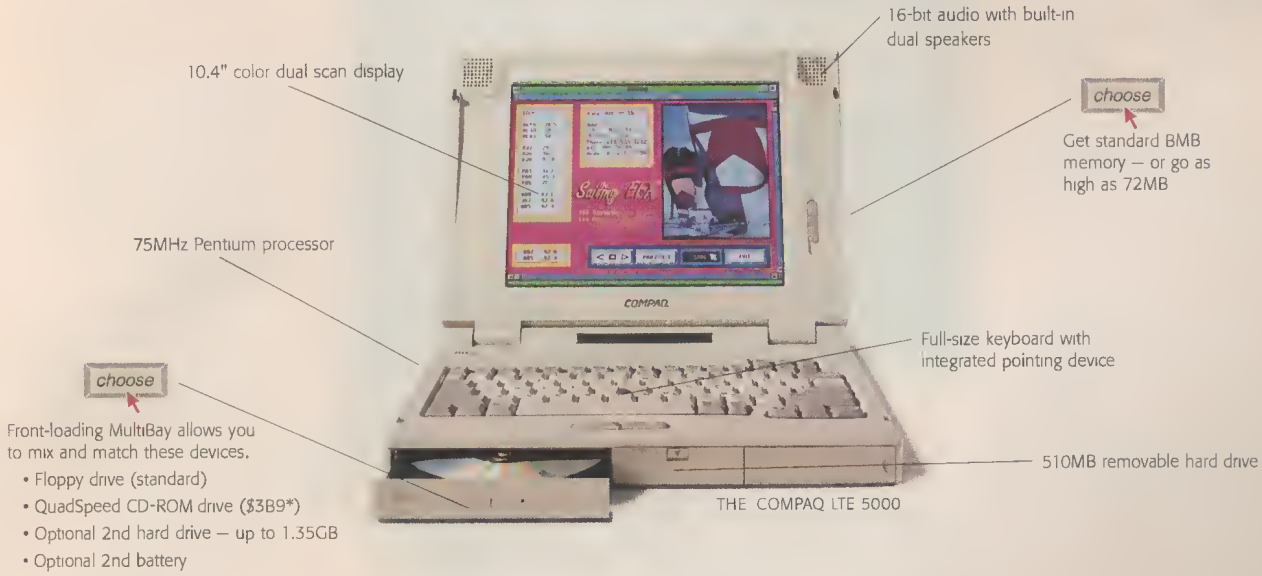

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Professional Video in a Flash

SNEAK PREVIEW

With lightning-fast LANs, cable modems, digital camcorders, and the constantly changing World Wide Web, the message is clear—digital video has hit the big time. For years, Adobe's Premiere has been *the* package to get for digital video editing, and it retains this status with version 4.2.

The new, 32-bit Premiere is fast—it compiles video, filters, sounds, and text nearly twice as fast as its 16-bit predecessor. Also new to this version are filters and Internet video optimization, making it the perfect package for anyone interested in digital video. But with power comes a heavy price: it's still expensive and difficult to master.

Fast Forward The speed increases of Premiere 4.2 over the previous version are impressive. The new version incorporates complex filters and transitions often two and a half times faster. Even better, Premiere can finally compile videos in the background while you work in other applications—no need to leave your machine for hours while the program slowly pulls together the pieces of your movie.

Premiere also has some great new features, including important Internet optimization techniques. Version 4.2 lets you crop frame sizes to remove unwanted pixels and keep files small. Sound compresses down to 8kHz, the standard for Web audio players like DSP Group's True Speech and Progressive Networks' Real Audio.

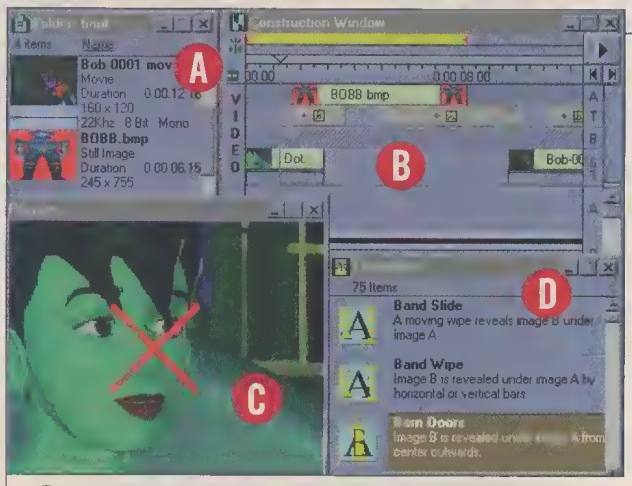
Output-resolution control is ideal for video streaming over the Internet—you can shrink movies to a compact 32 by 32 pixels. It's no accident that Premiere is bundled with VDOnet's VDOLive Personal Server, which lets you take advantage of video streaming on your Web site.

For high-resolution, CD-ROM–quality video, Premiere includes a few enhancements such as batch processing and controllable key frames, allowing for better playback and faster reaction times for interactive video. Powerful new filters include Camera View, which creates excellent 3-D effects from simple video clips, and Audio Swap, which lets you swap the left and right audio channels back and forth during playback.

Mixed Reels The biggest downside to Premiere is that you have to navigate through a sea of file menus and palettes. So if you plan on spending serious time with Premiere, do yourself a favor and get a big monitor—you'll need the extra screen space. Another drawback is Premiere's lack of support for MPEG files. Although it certainly isn't the most popular format, an MPEG option would be helpful.

Premiere is pricey, but here's a tip for those testing the digital video waters: If you're shopping for a video-capture board, choose one that comes bundled with Premiere 1.1 (most do). Registered users of Premiere can upgrade to Premiere 4.2 for $99.

When it comes to desktop video editing, Premiere 4.2 is the best in the business. Mastering Premiere's advanced features isn't easy, but the results are rewarding. JACK LYON



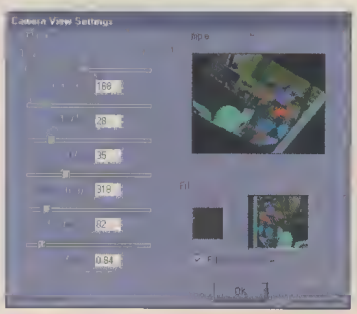
Streaming Video: Adobe's Premiere 4.2 tightens its grip on the top spot of video-editing software with this 32-bit upgrade. It offers a major speed increase and introduces several tools to optimize streaming audio and video for the Web.

A. Keep video clips and other media organized with the **Import Directory.**

B. Drag and drop video, sound, text, and transitions in the **Construction Window.**

C. **Preview** your work before you export the final version to disk.

D. Choose from dozens of **professional transitions.**



Movies in 3-D: Premiere 4.2 gets a new Camera View filter, which lets you twist, bend, zoom, and roll video clips to create stunning 3-D effects.

FILEBOX

Premiere 4.2

★★★★

Verdict: The fastest, most flexible video-editing package available.

Pros: Nearly twice as fast as previous versions; dozens of new filters; Internet audio and video enhancement features.

Cons: Difficult to learn and master; too many palettes; no MPEG support.

Competition: Ulead Systems' MediaStudio, Insync Software's Razor, and ATI's MediaMerge all cost about $300 less than Premiere. But Premiere offers more sophisticated editing tools and better Internet optimization features.

System Requirements: 486 CPU, 8MB of RAM, 100MB hard drive, 16-bit video card or better.

Features: Background compiling, Intel's Indeo Interactive support, several new filters and transitions, key frame control, frame cropping, batch processing, noise reduction.

$500 est. street price
Adobe Systems
(800) 642-3623, (415) 961-4400
Reader Service No. 692

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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Fail-safe Network Backups

It's every network manager's nightmare: A network drive goes down, the marketing department loses a top-level project, and an impatient CEO fumes. Do you fear for your job? Flee the country? Not if your company's NetWare network is protected by Cheyenne Software's Arcserve 6 or Stac's Replica.

Arcserve 6 uses a file-by-file method to perform backup and recovery. Stac's Replica produces a photocopy-like image of an entire volume on the network instead of copying files separately. Both ensure nearly foolproof backup for your NetWare network.

Secret Agents The newest version of Cheyenne's market-leading Arcserve for NetWare provides dozens of new features, including an ultrareliable NetWare Directory Services (NDS) assessment component and support for extended NDS utilities and RAID Level 5.

Arcserve adds what it calls Push Agents to assist the backup server as it accesses network resources. As the backup session progresses, Push Agents handle the actual local-server file access. The Push Agents transmit the data across the network to the backup server in one continuous stream. Arcserve also handles multiple concurrent data streams, thus boosting overall performance. Instead of handling backup jobs in a traditional batch fashion, Arcserve 6 runs multiple simultaneous sessions so data is copied faster.

Arcserve also uses a technique called media pooling, which speeds backups and recovery by writing data to several storage devices simultaneously. Data interleaving lets Arcserve read files from multiple data sources onto a single device, which also boosts performance.

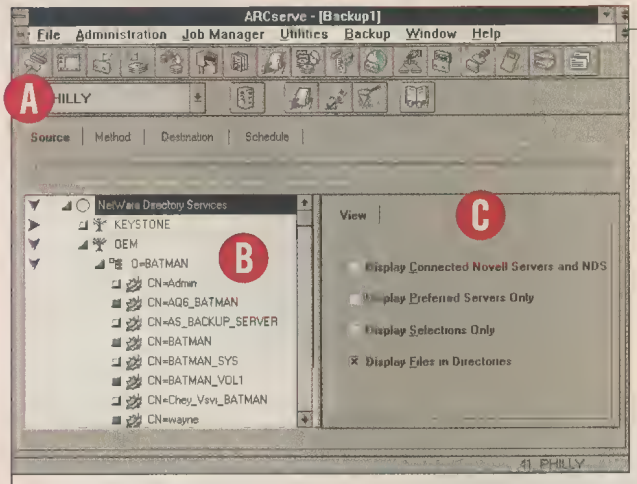
Arcserve 6 comes with Boole & Babbage's Stage III software for backing up the host server. Stage III includes a Windows 95–like interface, complete with wizards and cue cards that step you through common tasks.

Quick Copies Stac's Replica for NetWare uses a different approach. Instead of copying data file by file (as Arcserve does), Replica copies the underlying volume in its entirety, producing a byte-by-byte image of the device's contents. Think of it as a photocopy of your data.

The advantages of this method? Unlike file-by-file solutions, which open and close every disk file (an involved process in which performance is directly tied to the efficiency of the local file system), Replica backs up data at a level below the file system. This approach lets Replica achieve throughput speeds of up to 9GB per hour. A mathematical algorithm reconstructs the data after it's copied.

The trade-offs? Replica makes heavy demands on network performance during backups and lacks many of the flexible file-management features that traditional file-by-file backup packages like Arcserve 6 offer.

Replica is a low-cost alternative to traditional file-by-file backup. If you're on a tight budget and your primary concern is simple and fast backup and recovery, Replica is a good choice. But if you need a completely secure file-by-file backup method, Arcserve 6 is the better option. RANDALL C. KENNEDY



Disaster Relief: Don't let a failed network drive take your business down with it. Cheyenne's Arcserve 6 (above) and Stac's Replica provide two ways to back up your NetWare network.

A. Arcserve uses a familiar Windows 95–like **tabbed interface** to speed navigation.

B. Support for **NetWare Directory Services** makes setup easier.

C. Select different **management views** for supervising backup.

PICKS NETWARE **BACKUP** SOLUTIONS

Traditional, file-by-file backup with NDS support	Cheyenne Arcserve 6 for NetWare
Superspeedy network backup for less	Stac Replica for NetWare

FILEBOX

Arcserve 6 for NetWare

★★★★

Verdict: The very best in traditional, file-by-file NetWare backup.

Pros: Smart Agents and other innovations speed performance; conventional file-by-file backup method ensures reliability.

Cons: Not the cheapest solution.

$1,895 est. street price
Cheyenne Software
(800) 317-5227, (516) 484-5110
Reader Service No. 693

Replica for NetWare

★★★★

Verdict: Fast disaster recovery on a budget.

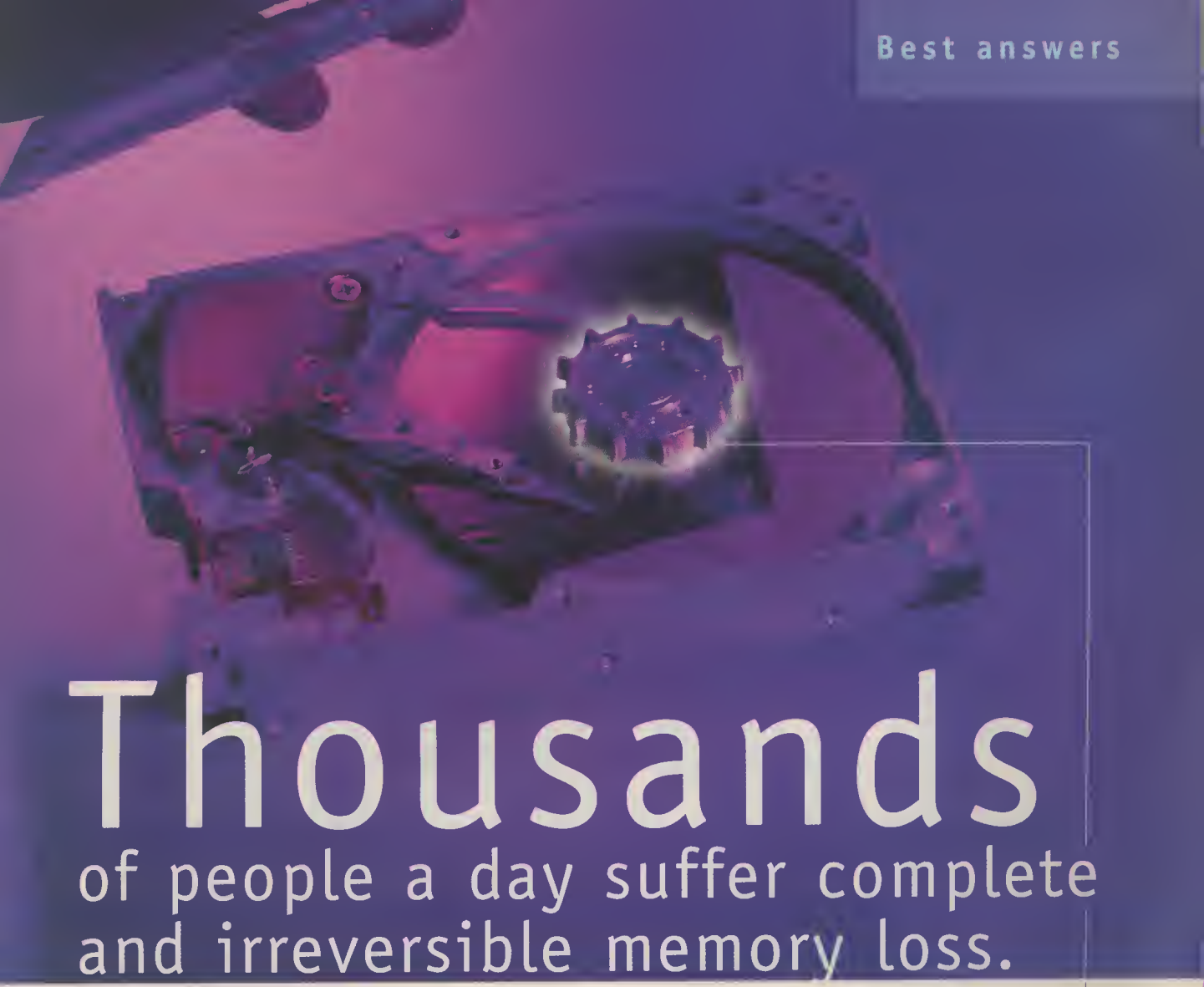
Pros: Hits throughput speeds of up to 9GB per hour; less expensive than traditional file-by-file backup packages.

Cons: Less familiar than the file-by-file backup method used in Arcserve; lacks flexible file-management features.

$995 est. street price
Stac
(800) 522-7822, (619) 794-4300
Reader Service No. 694

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Best answers



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Double-Talking Database

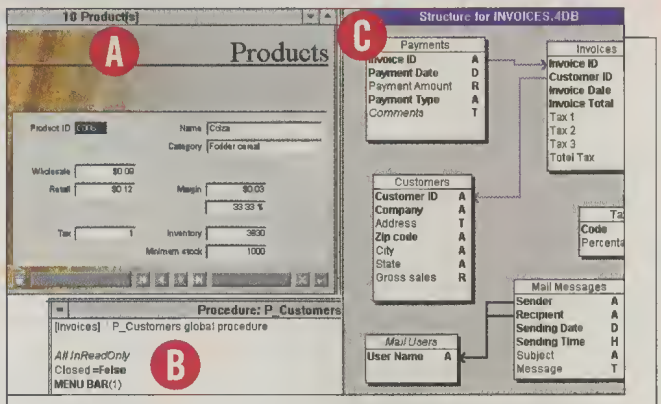
Cross-platform power—that's what users of ACI's 4th Dimension, the premier developer's database for Apple's Macintosh, have been craving for a long time. With the release of 4th Dimension 3.5 for Windows, you finally get it.

4th Dimension helps businesses that struggle with two platform-specific databases. Although it sorely lacks some basic database tools, like a Structured Query Language (SQL) and comprehensive object-oriented programming, 4th Dimension is the best choice for developing databases and applications for both the Windows and Macintosh operating systems.

Platform Jumping Like its Macintosh sibling, 4th Dimension 3.5 for Windows offers a graphical forms editor, a full-featured Pascal-like programming language, multitasking features, and an integrated database engine.

Developers can use 4th Dimension to create customized databases and applications, but because of its text-only programming interface, the program isn't as easy to use as Borland's Delphi. A few elements, however, are graphical. For example, the Structure Editor makes creating and relating tables as easy as point, click, and drag. The Layout Editor, which is for creating data-entry forms, dialog boxes, and reports, is also graphically based—but it requires many extra steps to get the job done.

Speak My Language The programming language is extremely flexible and gives you complete control over an application's interface and data. Nevertheless, 4th Dimension could be easier to use.



Cross-Platform Development: ACI's 4th Dimension, the long-standing leader for Macintosh application development, has finally come to Windows. While it lacks many database-development basics, it's a must for creating cross-platform apps.

A. Building an **attractive interface** for your database is simple.

B. The full-featured **programming language** provides total control.

C. Define the structure of your database with the graphical **Structure Editor.**

Process List			
1	User/Runtime process	Waiting Event	21s
2	Cache Manager	Delayed	1s
3	Products	Executing	1s
4	Taxes	Waiting Event	0s
5	$Dashboard	Waiting Event	1s
6	Design process	Executing	117s

Job Juggler: 4th Dimension's multiple-process architecture lets each application handle several tasks simultaneously, such as compiling and entering data.

Unfortunately, the programming skills you acquired in other Windows programming environments won't help you much with 4th Dimension. The power, productivity, and structure of object-oriented programming are lost, and the language bears no resemblance to Microsoft's Visual Basic. SQL, the most fundamental database-programming technology, is also missing from 4th Dimension. Even experienced programmers will have trouble learning the nuances of the program's database engine.

Because of its steep learning curve, it's unlikely that 4th Dimension will lure many people from their current programs of choice. But it does have a few bright spots. 4th Dimension's multiple-process architecture lets you create multitasking applications. Imagine compiling a report in one window, faxing a bid in another, and entering inventory in a third—all at the same time. You can do it with 4th Dimension. And how about a compiler that creates machine-language executable files for either Windows or Macintosh? It will cost you another $1,000, and it's considerably less sophisticated than the compiler in Microsoft's C++, but it works.

Speed Bump If you want a new database because complex sorts take too long in Microsoft's Visual FoxPro, keep looking. 4th Dimension is no speed demon. For multifield sorting and table joining, it's downright poky. Performance is also an issue with its client-server implementation. While 4th Dimension–based databases perform adequately for workgroups as large as 50, it poses little threat to high-end products like Oracle's SQL Server.

If you're a database developer who needs to create stand-alone and workgroup applications for Macintosh and Windows clients, 4th Dimension 3.5 for Windows is a practical and long-awaited option. But if you have no cross-platform needs, there's little reason to switch from your current database. J. W. DAVIS

FILEBOX

4th Dimension 3.5 for Windows

★★★

Verdict: A serious tool for cross-platform development, but the technology lags behind mature Windows databases.

Competition: Borland's Delphi offers a rich object-oriented programming environment, SQL, and machine-language compilation. Microsoft's Visual FoxPro offers greater object orientation and an integrated data engine that outpaces 4th Dimension's. Neither competitor, however, provides cross-platform development features.

System Requirements: Windows 3.1, Windows 95, or Windows NT; 386 CPU; 8MB of RAM for Windows 3.1 and Windows 95; 16MB of RAM for Windows NT.

$650 est. street price
ACI
(800) 881-3466, (408) 252-4444
Reader Service No. 695

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Best answers

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They will lose presentations and reports to a computer crash.

It's easy to solve a problem once you know what the problem is.

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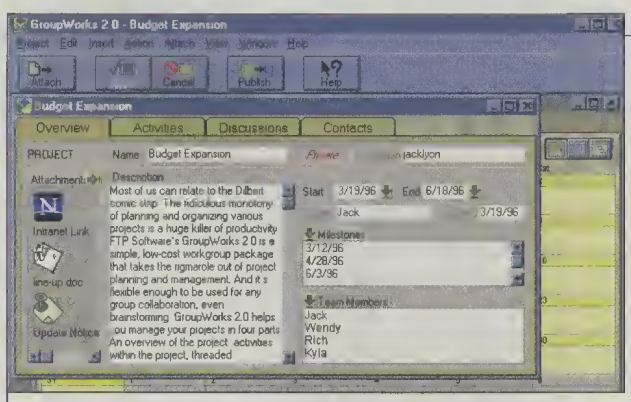
Tools for the Team Player

Most of us can relate to the comic strip *Dilbert*. The ridiculous monotony of planning and organizing group projects is a huge productivity killer. The solution? FTP Software's GroupWorks 2.0 is a simple, low-cost workgroup package that takes the rigmarole out of project planning and management. And it's flexible enough for any kind of group collaboration, even brainstorming.



All Together Now: FTP Software's GroupWorks 2.0 is a flexible and affordable way to manage small and medium-size team projects.

GroupWorks 2.0 helps you manage your projects on four fronts: project overviews, activities, threaded discussions, and a contact database. Think of it as the gatekeeper of information. Anything that pertains to your project can be stored in GroupWorks, including any file or Web address. And it conforms to Microsoft's Mail application program interface, so you can read your e-mail from GroupWorks. Remote users can copy projects and work offline, and their changes are automatically updated the next time they log on to the network. GroupWorks also includes Active Agents, which keep track of deadlines and alert coworkers when they're approaching.

The GroupWorks administrator can easily control access rights for each user. But prepare to invest a lot of time setting up your projects. Importing information such as contact databases into GroupWorks is difficult. You may have to input the data from scratch.

Despite a few kinks, GroupWorks 2.0 is a solid project manager. It costs hundreds less than similar products yet offers remote access and file sharing. If you're working with a large group and need intricate project management, Microsoft's Project is a better choice. But for small to midsize groups that need airtight organization, GroupWorks is a good choice. JACK LYON

FILEBOX

GroupWorks 2.0

★★★★

Verdict: An affordable way to manage a team project over a network.

Pros: Active Agents track approaching deadlines; easy to control access rights.

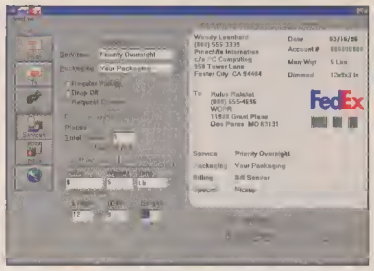
Cons: Cluttered interface; importing contact databases is difficult.

$299 est. street price for single user; $1,420 for five-user license
FTP Software
(800) 282-4387, (508) 685-4000
Reader Service No. 696

Federal Express FedEx Ship v1.2

FedEx Without the Forms

Almost everything you can accomplish by running down to your local Federal Express office can be done twice as fast from your PC. FedEx Ship v1.2 does away with the mundane forms and other time wasters of using overnight express-mail services so you can get your packages on their way faster.



Speedy Delivery: FedEx Ship v1.2 makes shipping and tracking packages painless.

FedEx Ship prints Airbills on any laser printer—just fold the printed page in half and slap it in the clear plastic stick-on Airbill pouch. Fill in the details onscreen, and the software instantly calculates how much it will cost to send your package. All of FedEx's special services, from unscheduled pickup to Saturday delivery, are just a click away. Click on Send, and your PC dials FedEx's toll-free number, assigns a shipment number, calculates shipping charges, prints bar codes, and sets tracking in motion. To track a package you sent, click on the Track button, and your PC instantly retrieves information on precisely where the package is.

FedEx Ship v1.2 works flawlessly and is free if you have a FedEx account. Whether you send a dozen packages a day or just a few each month, this app is indispensable. WOODY LEONHARD

FILEBOX

FedEx Ship v1.2

★★★★★

Verdict: A fast, easy, and free way to prepare and track your FedEx shipments.

Pros: Automates mundane tasks; better tracking controls.

Cons: Can't pop a package over phone lines—yet.

Online Extras: Link to the Federal Express site for a free download via www.pccomputing.com.

Free
Federal Express
(800) 463-3339
Reader Service No. 697

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Best answers

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- Integrated 3Com EtherLink III
- Integrated Audio
- Full Motion Video
- 3 Year Warranty

$2005
Product Code #300101

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133MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
- 16MB EOO RAM/1GB HOO
- 17LS Monitor (15.7" v.i.s., .26NI)
- Integrated 3Com EtherLink III
- 3 Year Warranty

$2425
Product Code #300161

DELL OPTIPLEX GX 5133M
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- Integrated 3Com EtherLink III
- Integrated Audio
- Full Motion Video
- 3 Year Warranty

$2705
Product Code #300162

DELL OPTIPLEX G 5166M+
166MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
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- 15TX Monitor (13.7" v.i.s , .2BNI)
- Integrated 3Com EtherLink III
- 256KB Cache
- 3 Year Warranty

$2929
Product Code #300163

DELL OPTIPLEX GX 5166MT
166MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
- 32MB EOO RAM/2GB HOO
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- 3 Year Warranty

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CorelDRAW™ 6

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Jasmine, Texture, VisualWave, WebObjects

Home-Page Improvement

SMART PREVIEW

Putting together Web pages used to be fun. You learned HTML, tossed in a few hyperlinks, found an appropriate graphic or two, and voilà—you had your own page. Then things got trickier. Along came forms, tables, image maps, frames, and Common Gateway Interface (CGI) scripting, all of which require a lot more work. To do a top-notch Web job today, you need sophisticated graphical programming tools. Understandably, Web developers are getting desperate, and software companies are responding with a new product genre: interactive Web development tools.

These tools perform a wide range of functions, but their primary role is to give you easier control over a growing array of interactive Web-site technologies. We examined the beta versions of four promising new tools: Computer Associates and Fujitsu's joint product, Jasmine; FutureTense's Texture; ParcPlace-Digitalk's VisualWave; and Next Software's WebObjects. They all offer different features and strengths, and provide new opportunities and technological breakthroughs for adding spice and sizzle to static Web sites.

Interactive Test Drive: Web sites are taking on new, interactive looks, thanks to development tools like Next Software's WebObjects. Dodge used WebObjects to give its Web site on-the-fly search options that are connected to a large SQL database.

Web Blossoms Computer Associates/Fujitsu's Jasmine offers a rich and complex environment for application development, complete with a fully object-oriented database engine and multimedia authoring system. You can use Jasmine to create applications that run independently on the Web or, more likely, as fully configurable plug-ins for Netscape (see "Net Essentials: See What You've Been Missing on the Web," May, page 58). You'll soon be able to create plug-ins for Microsoft's Web browser.

Jasmine applications create HTML code automatically, and you can drag and drop graphics, audio, and video files into the multimedia scenes. Jasmine's developers' kit was still incomplete in the beta version. But Jasmine is a promising development tool because it takes information from new or existing high-end databases and displays it as a series of full multimedia documents.

Java's Texture FutureTense's Texture lets designers build interactive Web publications that give the Web the aesthetic appeal it so often lacks. Available for Windows 95, Windows NT, and Macintosh operating systems, Texture gives you full control over the placement of text and images, as well as Bitstream TrueDoc fonts—something you won't find in vanilla HTML coders.

Texture documents are delivered to the Web through Sun Microsystems' Java, which ensures cross-platform compatibility for Java-enabled browsers, but also means fairly lengthy retrieval times. Still, Texture's potential is huge. It's easy to imagine elaborately designed, highly specific, fully formatted publications that continually draw updated information from a variety of Web sources.

The Next Object If Next Software's WebObjects can accomplish all the things it promises, the Web will never be the same. Available for Windows NT and a variety of Unix platforms, WebObjects helps you create dynamic Web

FILEBOX

Jasmine

★★★★

Verdict: A powerful database-to-Web-site linking tool with HTML coding that's as simple as drag and drop.

Price not available
Computer Associates/Fujitsu
(800) 225-5224, (516) 342-5133
Reader Service No. 710

Texture

★★★★

Verdict: A unique publishing kit that automatically embeds any font or graphic into a Web site, which can then be viewed by anyone with a Java browser.

$495 est. street price
FutureTense
(508) 263-5480
Reader Service No. 711

VisualWave

★★★

Verdict: A basic yet powerful graphical Web and multimedia authoring tool that includes all the essentials for scripting.

$4,995 est. street price
ParcPlace-Digitalk
(800) 759-7272, (408) 481-9090
Reader Service No. 712

WebObjects

★★★★

Verdict: One-of-a-kind development tool that merges C++, SQL, OLE, and Web technologies, and supports Java and HTTP servers.

Free; $2,999 for Pro version; $24,999 for Enterprise version
Next Software
(800) 879-6398, (415) 366-0900
Reader Service No. 713

Online Extras: Link to copies of all of these products at www.pccomputing.com.

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

sites much more easily than with complex Java and CGI scripting. And it supports Java, so you can make full use of any applets you have. The program's primary function is to interact with existing corporate databases, and it also includes WebScript, a scripting framework that cooperates with similar scripting languages such as JavaScript and Perl.

WebObject's most obvious use is for producing Web sites that users can tailor to their specific needs. Let's say you have a database of product information. Instead of bombarding users with all of your products, WebObjects offers a fairly simple and extremely powerful way to build an interface that lets users view only the products they want. Instead of facing a blizzard of options, users set guidelines for price, features, and delivery speed, for example. Then they're shown only the products that match those criteria. You can combine WebObjects with Java applets to build sites that are entirely user-controlled.

The basic package is free; WebObjects Pro adds C++ and OLE for $2,999. The Enterprise edition goes even further, offering support for SQL databases and other features, for $24,999.

Redesign on the Fly

ParcPlace-Digitalk's VisualWave lets you create interactive Web applications quickly and easily. It's a multimedia authoring package that merges all the tools you need—including HTML authoring, CGI scripting, and SQL linking—to produce live Web applications. A VisualWave document generates HTML as users demand it, and the document can be programmed so that necessary elements are loaded while the main application is running.

VisualWave comes complete with a personal Web server, so you can test your applications locally—a fast, safe way to debug your apps. The product contains code that lets you keep each user session with an application alive while it integrates data from a variety of other screens. And you can do all this with VisualWave's WYSIWYG interface-creation tool, which simplifies the drudgery of writing HTML code and CGI scripts, and even automates some elements of the interface itself.

Clearly, ParcPlace-Digitalk wants to appeal to the growing ranks of Web site designers who have no interest in learning code-ugly versions of CGI and HTML.

Future Building Blocks

In addition to these four tools, keep your eyes on General Magic's Telescript Active Web Tools, Sybase's PowerSoft media.splash, NetObjects' Site Publisher, and mFactory's mTropolis, as well as several Java-based tools, all of which promise object-oriented, fully interactive Web publishing.

Which one is the right tool for you? At press time, all these products were in beta and likely to change dramatically. But for now, Jasmine is a solid multimedia application-development tool, Texture is a useful Java-based publisher, WebObjects is the best way to harness the information in large databases and legacy applications, and VisualWave is good for those who need to develop simple interactive applications quickly and with very little overhead.

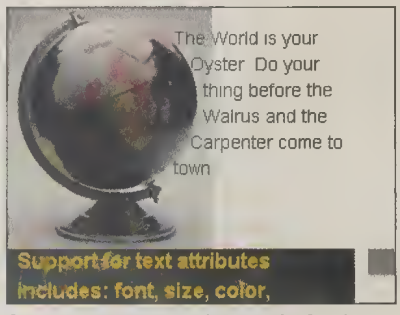
Stay tuned for even more interesting Web tools in the coming months. In the meantime, visit *PC Computing*'s Web site (www.pccomputing.com), where you'll find quick links to all the interactive Web development tools reviewed here. **NEIL RANDALL**

PICKS INTERACTIVE **WEB TOOLS**

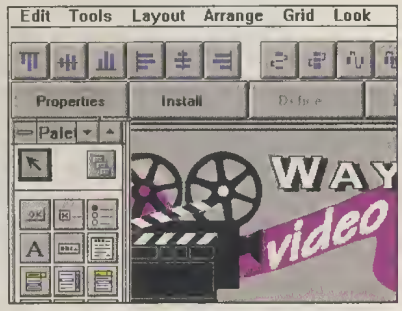
A rich and complex application-development environment	Computer Associates/ Fujitsu Jasmine
A novel Java-based publishing kit	FutureTense Texture
A high-end tool that combines C++, SQL, and OLE technologies	Next Software WebObjects
A basic, graphical multimedia and Web-authoring tool	ParcPlace-Digitalk VisualWave

SIDE BY SIDE GRAPHICAL WEB **PUBLISHING** TOOLS

Jammin' Jasmine: Computer Associates and Fujitsu's Jasmine is an object-oriented interactive Web tool that links graphically rich sites to underlying databases.



Java Publishing: Instead of using static HTML, FutureTense's Texture creates Java applets that act as text, graphics, or animations. Click on the globe, and it spins.



Live Apps: ParcPlace-Digitalk's VisualWave produces live Web apps by merging HTML, CGI scripts, and SQL databases—all from within a WYSIWYG interface.

It's enough to make your eyes pop, your hair smoke and your hands shake. But hurry. Everybody wants one.

It's here. The only true 128-bit graphics accelerator on the market. It's got incredible 2D acceleration. Mindboggling 3D. And a powerful 256-bit video engine. In short, it's the all-encompassing, all-powerful, knock-down, drag-out absolute extreme of visual acceleration. If that's the kind of performance you're hurting for, call 1-800-GET NINE. Or hurry to your local CompUSA or Computer City.

Check us out on the web at
http://www.nine.com/imagine2

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Create a World on the Web

The allure of 3-D is strong on the Web, where most of us yearn to stretch beyond two-dimensional graphics and video and explore virtual worlds online. Virtual-reality markup language (VRML) is emerging as the 3-D standard on the Internet. As it stands, however, the current VRML standard is pretty basic. Although you can fly through 3-D models and look at blank walls in virtual ghost towns, nothing is interactive.

Two VRML authoring tools let you add greater dimension to online worlds. ParaGraph's Virtual Home Space Builder is the easiest way to design virtual worlds. It extends the VRML standard, letting you add multimedia elements such as digital video to your projects. Caligari's Fountain specializes in creating 3-D VRML objects such as spheres and pyramids. Although it's difficult to use, there's little to lose—Fountain is free to download from the Web.

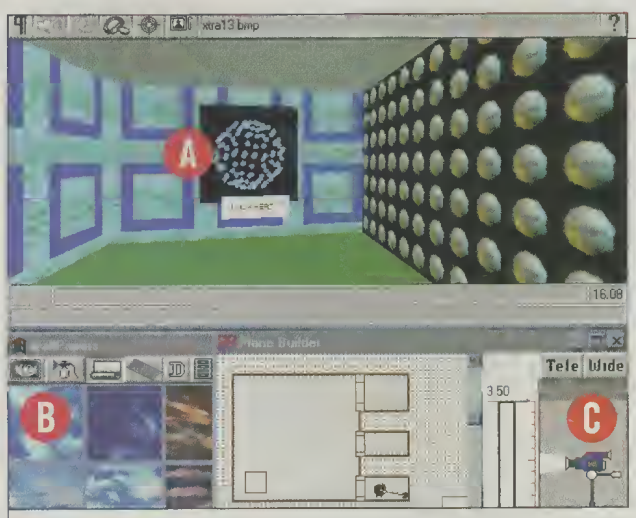
Worlds of Action Take a look around the Web and you'll find that most people are using VRML to create 3-D structures such as models of neighborhoods, office buildings, and dream homes. You'll also notice that these models all look similar, each with solid-color walls and empty rooms. Virtual Home Space Builder provides tools for creating interactive, graphically rich environments. Click on a picture, and it starts up a video file. Click on a cube, and it fires up any linked document or program. You can even play a snappy tune in the background. Best of all, creating interactive worlds is painless—absolutely no scripting is required. The downside to Virtual Home Space Builder is that it requires others to download yet another viewer, which isn't a Netscape plug-in and uses about 300K of disk space.

While Virtual Home Space Builder is the easiest VRML tool we've seen, it has some interface quirks. Native worlds that work wonderfully in the program's own format fall flat when converted to standard VRML. By default, the conversion eliminates all the interactive elements and causes objects to turn a dark gray color that's barely discernible against the black background. You can bypass these quirks, but you'll need the manual. Finally, Virtual Home Space Builder creates only buildings, walls, and cubes. If you want sophisticated 3-D objects, look elsewhere.

Don't Be a Square Caligari's Fountain breaks out of the four square walls. It lets you create any 3-D shape, which can be poked and prodded by anyone with a VRML browser. But creating objects isn't easy. Fountain has a dizzying array of icon controls. You start with a library of six objects—things like cones, spheres, and cubes. While it sounds limiting, any group of shapes can be blended together. You are given absolute power over your objects' attributes, including size, color, shadows, and placement, but the design process is far from intuitive.

Fountain keeps you in the realm of the current VRML standard. Once you create an object, simply save it in VRML format, and everyone will see exactly what you created.

VRML is still in its infancy, and standards are guaranteed to change. But ParaGraph's Virtual Home Space Builder and Caligari's Fountain let you take your VRML worlds to the next level. JACK LYON

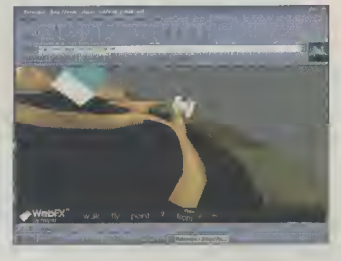


Signs of Life: ParaGraph's Virtual Home Space Builder has a simple interface that takes the sting out of building virtual 3-D worlds on the Web. It also lets you add life to dead content by using textures, sound, and multimedia.

A. Create **interactive buttons** to play sound.

B. Use any **graphics or video file** to create walls with texture.

C. Navigate and change views using the **camera**.



Take It Away: The learning curve is steep, but Caligari's Fountain lets you populate your 3-D worlds with any object you can imagine—for free.

FILEBOX

Fountain

★★★★

Verdict: Difficult to master, but the VRML tools are superb.

Pros: It creates any shape you want, works with any VRML browser, and costs nothing.

Cons: Difficult to use.

Online Extras: Link to a free copy at www.pccomputing.com.

Free
Caligari Corp.
(800) 351-7620, (415) 390-9600
Reader Service No. 714

Virtual Home Space Builder

★★★★

Verdict: Easy way to build interactive 3-D worlds on the Web.

Pros: Simple interface; no scripting required.

Cons: Creates only walls and cubes.

Online Extras: Get your free trial version at www.pccomputing.com.

$50 est. street price
ParaGraph Int'l
(408) 364-7700
Reader Service No. 715

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Don Milenko

- E-mails new book draft to publisher.
- Visits Jazz Improvisation Web Site.
- Locates '71 Opel GT parts.
- Moderates Hemingway newsgroup.
- Organizes family reunion.

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Along with everything you need to get to the Net. Including our WinSock-compliant NetCruiser® software. Twenty-four hour live support. And over 200 high-speed local access numbers across the U.S. and Canada.

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You'll see that when it comes to the Net, we make an obvious difference.

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$5.00 gets you more than 400 hours of Direct Internet Access.

© 1996 NETCOM, Inc. NetCruiser is a registered trademark of NETCOM On-Line Communication Services, Inc. *Includes 40 prime time hours plus unlimited non-prime hours. ‡Introductory offer is one month of regular service for $5. Thereafter, regular service is 40 prime time hours plus unlimited non-prime hours for $19.95 a month. Minimum system requirements for NetCruiser for Windows software: 386 IBM PC-compatible, MS-DOS 5.0, Windows 3.1, 4MB RAM and 4MB of free hard disk space. Credit card required. For more information, e-mail Info@Netcom.com or visit our Web site at http://www.netcom.com.

Build a Better Web Page

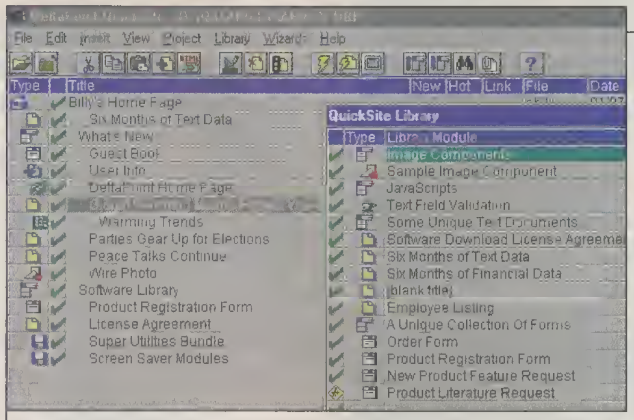
Designing your own Web page is easy compared with the hassles of managing it. Keeping a site's content exciting, its information up-to-date, and its links current can quickly become an administrative nightmare. DeltaPoint's QuickSite makes it easy to create Web sites and keep the content au courant.

With QuickSite's outline view, you can mark pages that are under construction, drag and drop elements from one page to another, and automatically alter links. And no HTML coding is required: QuickSite includes predesigned components and templates for creating a welcome page, product-order forms, and a favorite-links page. You can also convert text documents with the program's HTML converter.

QuickSite includes wizards that step you through tricky tasks, so setting up a site that's rich with features is quick and painless. It organizes Web pages into libraries (like mini databases), so it's easy to track pages and the elements within them. The libraries let you check the validity of links, add and delete links, or insert icons with a simple mouse click.

QuickSite supports many new Web standards, including HTML 3.0, which includes support for tables. The professional version, which sells for $295, supports Sun Microsystems' JavaScript.

With a street price of just $79, DeltaPoint's QuickSite is a terrific value. Only Microsoft's FrontPage comes close to including as many Web site–management tools. But at $149, FrontPage also costs far more. RICH SCHWERIN



Smart Sites: DeltaPoint's $79 QuickSite includes everything you need to build your own home page and easily keep its content up-to-date.

FILEBOX

QuickSite

★★★★★

Verdict: Inexpensive, one-stop solution for creating and managing your own Web site.

Pros: Wizards step you through common Web-publishing tasks with grace and ease.

Cons: Lacks support for some advanced features such as Microsoft's ActiveX OLE controls.

$79 est. street price;
$295 for professional version
DeltaPoint
(800) 446-6955, (408) 648-4000
Reader Service No. 689

NetCarta CyberPilot Pro

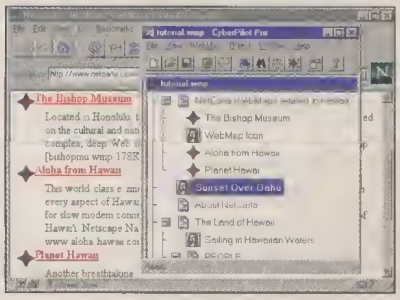
Mapping Cyberspace

If you're on a road trip from San Francisco to Seattle, a detailed regional atlas of the Pacific Northwest is more useful than a glove box crammed with wrinkled maps of Miami or Memphis. CyberPilot Pro from NetCarta took this basic map tenet, expanded it, and applied it to your travels on the World Wide Web.

At CyberPilot Pro's core are NetCarta's WebMaps, hierarchical outlines that show the content and structure of a Web space. Web spaces can be large-scale Web sites, like PC Computing Online; a collection of Web sites, like ZDNet; or user-defined collections of pages or sites.

CyberPilot Pro works best with user-defined Web spaces. You can easily group different sites and disparate pages, linking them together in an outline that works the way you do. WebMap provides a much easier way to view and manage your Web resources than endlessly fiddling with bookmarks.

CyberPilot Pro works under Windows 95 and is an interesting and useful online utility. If you wander around the Web for over an hour a day and need direction, CyberPilot Pro will help you find your way. RICH SCHWERIN



Plot Your Web Course: View Web spaces in an organized, maplike format with NetCarta's CyberPilot.

FILEBOX

CyberPilot Pro

★★★★

Verdict: Cut your surf time—create a custom Web map.

Pros: Bypass irrelevant sites with user-defined cyberspace maps; works with any Web browser.

Cons: For occasional Web wanderers, it may not be worth a hundred bucks.

System Requirements: Windows 95 or Windows NT, 486 CPU, 8MB of RAM.

$99 est. street price
NetCarta Corp.
(800) 461-2449, (408) 461-8920
Reader Service No. 690

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

TOMORROW'S TECHNOLOGY TODAY!

THE MICRON

Unleashing up to 166MHz of Pentium® processor power, the Micron Millennia surpasses established benchmarks to create a whole new level of unbridled computing performance. Continuing to triumphantly sweep the PC industry's most coveted awards, the Micron Millennia line was recently recognized with *PC Magazine*'s "Best Products Of 1995" award.

intel inside pentium processor

PC MAGAZINE BEST OF 1995

January 9, 1996
MILLENNIA

The Millennia series, legendary for blistering speed and outstanding value, will handle the most challenging applications—right now! So if your style is to work hard and fast, the Micron Millennia is designed just for you.

Designed for Microsoft® Windows®95

MILLENNIA P150

- Intel 150MHz Pentium processor
- 256K pipelined burst cache, flash BIOS
- 8X EIDE CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound & speakers
- PCI 64-bit, 3D video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft® Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows® 95 CD & MS Plus! CD
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ warranty*

A • 8MB EDO RAM • 1.0GB EIDE hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
• Microsoft Works 95 CD
$1,999 Business lease $68/month

B • 16MB EDO RAM • 1.6GB EIDE hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
• Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
$2,399 Business lease $82/month

C • 32MB EDO RAM • 2.1GB EIDE hard drive
• 17" Micron 17FGx, .26dp (15.8" display)
• Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
$3,199 Business lease $109/month

- With 166MHz Pentium processor.....add $100
- With 133MHz Pentium processor.....subtract $100

MILLENNIA PLUS P166

- Intel 166MHz Pentium processor
- 256K pipelined burst cache, flash BIOS
- PCI 32-bit Ultra SCSI Fast-20 controller
- 8X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound & speakers
- PCI 64-bit, 3D video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows 95 CD & MS Plus! CD
- Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

A • 16MB EDO RAM • 1.0GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
$2,799 Business lease $95/month

B • 32MB EDO RAM • 2.0GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
$3,599 Business lease $122/month

C • 64MB EDO RAM • 4.0GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
• 17" Micron 17FGx, .26dp (15.8" display)
$4,999 Business lease $170/month

- With 150MHz Pentium processor.....subtract $100

MILLENNIA

Micron computers are winning critical acclaim for their exceptional quality, record-breaking speeds and dependable performance. Recognized regularly for technical excellence and for outstanding customer service and technical support, Micron computers have been chosen for *PC Magazine*'s "Best Products of 1995" and "Editor's Choice" five times, *PC World*'s "Best Buy" over 50 times, *PC Computing*'s 1995 MVP award and *Computer Shopper*'s "Best Buy of 1995." Micron received the highest scores in *PC Magazine*'s "1995 Service and Reliability" survey in the four categories of "Customer Satisfaction with Reliability," "Repair Experience," "Technical Support" and "Future Likelihood of Buying Again."

"The Millennia is nothing short of the best all-around PC available on the market today."

—*PC Magazine*, April 25, 1995

May 30, 1995
MILLENNIA P120

" . . . we tested the latest PCs until they begged for mercy and found a no-compromise choice: Micron's Millennia P133."

—*PC Computing*, December 1995

December 1995
MILLENNIA P133

800-515-9197

http://www.mei.micron.com

MICRON ELECTRONICS, INC.

AWARD-WINNING SYSTEMS

SERVERS

POWERSERVER SMP P133

- Intel 133MHz Pentium® processor
- Dual Pentium SMP ZIF sockets
- 512K write-back cache, flash BIOS
- Slots: 5 EISA, 2 PCI, 1 EISA/PCI
- PCI 32-bit Ultra SCSI Fast-20 controller
- 8X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- PCI 64-bit video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- Full-size tower with 10 drive bays
- Microsoft® Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows® 95 CD & MS Plus! CD
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ warranty*

A • 16MB RAM • 1GB SCSI-2 hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
$2,899 Business lease $99/month

B • 32MB RAM • 2GB SCSI-2 hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
$3,699 Business lease $126/month

- With second 133MHz Pentium processor....add $399
- With Windows NT Workstation 3.51 CD.....add $99

POWERSERVER SMP P266

- Dual 133MHz Pentium processors
- 512K write-back cache, flash BIOS
- Slots: 5 EISA, 2 PCI, 1 EISA/PCI
- PCI 32-bit Ultra SCSI Fast-20 controller
- 8X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- PCI 64-bit video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- Full-size tower with 10 drive bays
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 3.51 CD
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ warranty*

A • 32MB RAM • 2GB SCSI-2 hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
$3,999 Business lease $136/month

B • 64MB RAM • 4GB SCSI-2 hard drive
• 17" Micron 17FGx, .26dp (15.8" display)
$5,399 Business lease $170/month

POWERSERVER SMP P133

Exceptional speed, performance and reliability are just a few of the reasons Micron is a technology leader in PC design. From the award-winning PowerStation to the PowerServer SMP P266, Micron offers a complete range of dependable products to suit every need. When you're considering your next PC purchase, consider a Micron PC.

POWERSTATION P100

- Intel 100MHz Pentium processor
- 8X EIDE CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound & speakers
- PCI 64-bit video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows 95 CD & MS Plus! CD
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

A • 8MB EDO RAM • 1.0GB EIDE hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
• Microsoft Works 95 CD
$1,699 Business lease $58/month

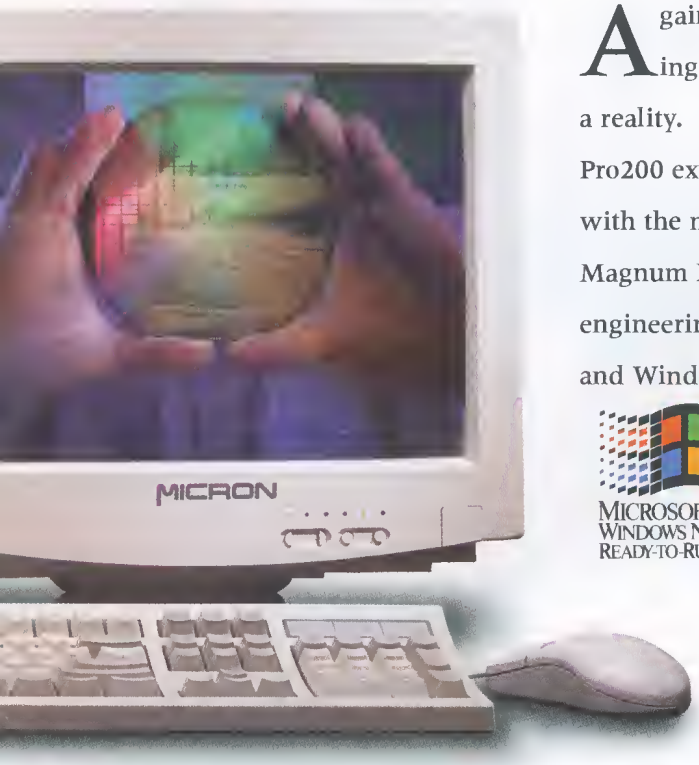
B • 16MB EDO RAM • 1.6GB EIDE hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
• Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
$2,099 Business lease $71/month

POWERSTATION LX P100

- Intel 100MHz Pentium processor
- 8MB EDO RAM • 1.0GB EIDE hard drive
- 3.5" floppy drive, flash BIOS
- PCI 64-bit graphics accelerator (1MB)
- 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows 95 & MS Plus!
- Microsoft Works 95
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

$1,499 Business lease $51/month

PRO MAGNUM



Again, Micron leads the industry by making affordable workstation performance a reality. The new Micron Magnum Plus Pro200 expands the limits of a workstation with the most advanced components available. The Magnum Plus Pro200 system combines superior Micron engineering with Intel's advanced Pentium® Pro processor and Windows® NT for the fastest, most reliable system on the market today. The Micron Magnum Plus Pro200—just what you'd expect from Micron Electronics, the technology leader.

intel inside PENTIUM® PRO PROCESSOR

MICROSOFT WINDOWS NT READY-TO-RUN

MAGNUM PRO150

- Intel 150MHz Pentium Pro processor
- 256K internal cache, flash BIOS
- 8X EIDE CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound & speakers
- PCI 64-bit video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft® Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 3.51 CD
- Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ warranty*

A • 16MB RAM • 1.0GB EIDE hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
$2,999 Business lease $102/month

B • 32MB RAM • 1.6GB EIDE hard drive
• 17" Micron 17FGx, .26dp (15.8" display)
$3,799 Business lease $129/month

MAGNUM PLUS PRO200

- Intel 200MHz Pentium Pro processor
- 256K internal cache, flash BIOS
- PCI 32-bit Ultra SCSI Fast-20 controller
- 8X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound & speakers
- PCI 64-bit video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 3.51 CD
- Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

A • 32MB RAM • 2GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
$4,399 Business lease $150/month

B • 64MB RAM • 4GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
• 17" Micron 17FGx, .26dp (15.8" display)
$5,799 Business lease $182/month

C • 128MB RAM • 9GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
• 21" Micron 21FGx, .26dp (20.0" display)
$9,499 Business lease $298/month

*MICRON POWER℠ WARRANTY & SUPPORT

- 5-year limited warranty on microprocessor and main memory • 3-year limited parts-only system warranty
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All sales are subject to Micron's standard limited warranties and terms and conditions of sale. Copies of the limited warranties may be obtained by calling Micron.

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MICRON ELECTRONICS, INC.

MICRON HOME MPC

Reinvent the meaning of work and play. The Micron Home MPC presents a spectacular multimedia experience complete in a single package. The only limit is your imagination.

intel inside pentium PROCESSOR

Designed for Microsoft® Windows®95

HOME MPC P100

net ready

- Intel 100MHz Pentium® processor
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- 8MB EDO RAM • 1.0GB EIDE hard drive
- 8X EIDE CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound & speakers
- 28.8 fax/modem, speakerphone, voice mail
- Microsoft Phone telephony software
- Internet ready
  - Internet in a Box from CompuServe®/Spry
  - Internet Explorer
- Prodigy®, America Online® & CompuServe trial memberships
- PCI 64-bit, 3D video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft® Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows® 95 CD & MS Plus! CD
- Microsoft Home Pak includes: Works 4.0 for Windows 95; Publisher Deluxe for Windows 95; Encarta® 96; Encarta 96 World Atlas; Music Central™ 96; Wine Guide; Arcade 1.0; Scenes–Sports Extremes Collection; Cinemania® 96; Julia Child Home Cooking; Best of Windows Entertainment Pack; Money 4.0 for Windows 95; CD Sampler (includes Fury³ game demo)
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ warranty*

$1,999

- With 133MHz Pentium processor.....add $100

HOME MPC P150

net ready

- Intel 150MHz Pentium processor
- 256K pipelined burst cache, flash BIOS
- 16MB EDO RAM • 1.6GB EIDE hard drive
- 8X EIDE CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit Wavetable 3D stereo sound
- Advent AV270 2x25 watt stereo speakers
- 28.8 fax/modem, speakerphone, voice mail
- Microsoft Phone telephony software
- Internet ready
  - Internet in a Box from CompuServe/Spry
  - Internet Explorer
- Prodigy, America Online & CompuServe trial memberships
- PCI 64-bit, 3D video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- 17" Micron 17FGx, .26dp (15.8" display)
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows 95 CD & MS Plus! CD
- Microsoft Office 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
- Microsoft Home Pak includes: Works 4.0 for Windows 95; Publisher Deluxe for Windows 95; Encarta 96; Encarta 96 World Atlas; Music Central 96; Wine Guide; Arcade 1.0; Scenes–Sports Extremes Collection; Cinemania 96; Julia Child Home Cooking; Best of Windows Entertainment Pack; Money 4.0 for Windows 95; CD Sampler (includes Fury³ game demo)
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

$2,999

- With 166MHz Pentium processor.....add $100

Microsoft Home software is the most spectacular collection of educational and entertainment software assembled in a single package. There's something everyone in the family will love from the fabulous new Encarta 96 World Atlas, exclusive with a Micron Home MPC, to the assortment of exciting games in Best of Windows Entertainment Pack.

*MICRON POWER℠ WARRANTY & SUPPORT

- 5-year limited warranty on microprocessor and main memory
- 3-year limited parts-only system warranty
- 1-year optional on-site service agreement
- 30 days of free Micron-supplied software support
- 30-day money-back policy
- 24-hour technical support

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Tollfree from Puerto Rico 800-708-1756 • Tollfree from Mexico 95-800-708-1755

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• Mon-Fri 6am-10pm Sat 7am-5pm (MT)
• International Sales Hours Mon-Fri 6am-7pm (MT)
• 208-893-3434 • Fax 208-893-3424
• Purchase Order Fax 208-893-8992
• Technical Support Available 24 Hours A Day–7 Days A Week
• Technical Support E-mail: techsupport meic@micron.com

800-515-9197

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FAM- PCCP-9606

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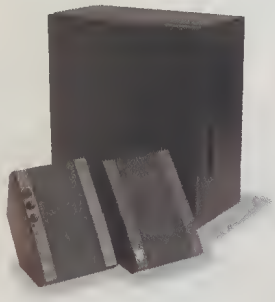
Custom configure your new Micron system with our most popular accessories.

MULTIMEDIA OPTIONS

- Creative Labs SoundBlaster™ 32 Wavetable sound card.....$59*
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster 32 Wavetable sound card w/2MB RAM....$149*
- Advent AV270 Powered Partners stereo speakers.....$99
- Advent AV370 Powered Partners stereo speakers w/subwoofer.....$199
- Microsoft® SideWinder Pro 3D joystick.....$59



MICROSOFT® HOME PAK

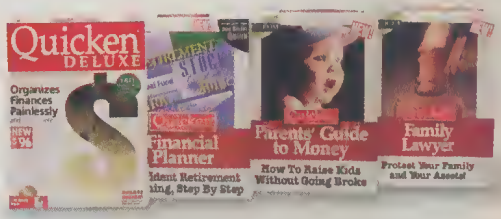
- Microsoft Home Pak, including: Works 4.0 for Windows 95; Publisher Deluxe for Windows 95; Encarta® 96; Encarta 96 World Atlas; Music Central™ 96; Wine Guide; Arcade 1.0; Scenes–Sports Extremes Collection; Cinemania® 96; Julia Child Home Cooking; Best of Windows Entertainment Pack; Money 4.0 for Windows 95; CD Sampler (including Fury³ game demo)

STORAGE/MEDIA OPTIONS

- Plextor EightPlex 8X 1.2MB/s SCSI internal CD-ROM drive.....$200** (upgrade from systems with standard 8X EIDE CD-ROM drive)
- Iomega SCSI Jaz drive with 1.0GB removable cartridge.....$399**
- Iomega Zip IDE drive with 100MB removable cartridge.....$99
- Iomega Ditto 800 (400/800MB) Travan Tape back up w/tape.....$149
- Iomega Ditto 3200 (1.6/3.2GB) Travan Tape back up w/tape.....$299
- Conner 4/8GB DDS-2 DAT SCSI Tape back up w/tape.....$999**

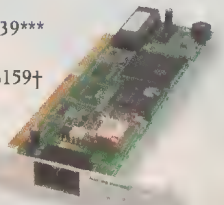
QUICKEN® FINANCIAL PAK

- Quicken Financial Pak, including: Quicken Deluxe 5.0; Quicken Financial Planner™; Quicken Parent's Guide to Money™; Quicken Family Lawyer™.....$69



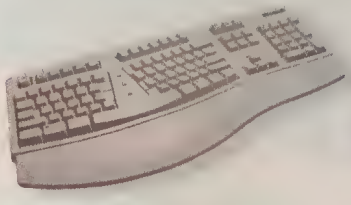
COMMUNICATION OPTIONS

- 28.8bd V.34 internal data/fax modem.....$139***
- 28.8bd V.34 internal Telephony data/fax modem w/full duplex speakerphone and voice mail.....$159†



OTHER OPTIONS

- APC Per7T surge suppressor.....$39
- APC Pro7T surge suppressor.....$69
- Microsoft Natural Keyboard.....$49



NETWORKING OPTIONS

- NE2000 Compatible Ethernet ISA NIC (BNC & RJ-45).....$49
- 3COM 3C509 Ethernet ISA NIC (BNC, AUI & RJ-45).....$99
- 3COM 3C595 Fast Etherlink PCI 10/100 NIC (RJ-45 only).....$159
- SMC ISA TokenCard network card.....$199

DISPLAY/VIDEO OPTIONS

- 17" Hitachi SuperScan 1711 (15.9" display) .26dp color monitor.....$100††
- 21" Hitachi SuperScan 2111 (20" display) .26dp color monitor.....$1000††
- Diamond Stealth64 video card w/2MB VRAM.....$150†††
- Diamond Stealth64 video card w/4MB VRAM.....$300†††
- #9 Imagine 128 video card w/4MB VRAM.....$500†††
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MacUser magazine, in their December '95 issue, named the 17GA its Best Buy and in their March '96 issue, gave the 15GA a coveted Four Mice rating.

Windows magazine, in their December '95 and April '96 issues, "recommended" the 17GA.

February '96 issue of PC Graphics and Video "Highly Recommended" the 17GA.

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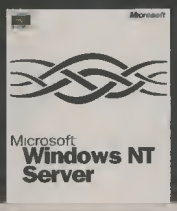

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CD-RONWhite

Out There

It's summer—time to get off your couch and into the sun, fresh air, and anything that doesn't involve snow shovels. But after a harsh winter, the real outdoors may be too overpowering all at once. Maybe you need some virtual outdoors first. Here are some CDs to satisfy your outdoor urge so well that your Barcalounger never gets cold.

Fore! Bring the green to your screen with Golf's Greatest Collection.

GOLF'S GREATEST COLLECTION ●●●●

Not quite a hole in one, but a good choice for links fans. Golf's Greatest Collection bundles two DOS games, Links and Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf, with a few Windows programs, including Golf America—a database that contains facts about golf and golf courses. The games have the usual simulations; you control the swing of a one-screen character. You can even design your own golf course with the Nicklaus game. There's also a Windows 3.1 golf simulation called The Masters, and ESPN Interactive Golf, which teaches you how to improve your score. Finally, there's a screen saver featuring "impossible" golf holes—the golfing equivalent of the picture *Dogs Playing Poker.*

Golf's Greatest Collection / StarHill Productions / (800) 304-4263, (916) 939-1008 / $40 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 716*

EXPLORE THE GRAND CANYON ●●●●

What's this? Another cheap CD travelogue with digital images obtained from the Arizona travel commission? Well, it's more than that. Not a lot more, but still worthy of being on disc. Explore the Grand Canyon has the usual pretty pictures, but it insists on using 800-by-600-pixel resolution and 65,000 colors. What really makes this CD different is a digitized virtual landscape based on ground-elevation figures from the U.S. Geological Survey. You can pop up from anywhere on a map to a 3-D vista of the canyon. Or you can use arrows to change your direction, and watch the landscape reform beneath your virtual feet. It's nothing like Microsoft's Flight Simulator—movement is pretty slow even on a 100MHz Pentium—but Explore the Grand Canyon is a unique way of understanding and enjoying this outdoor wonder.

Virtual Vista: Navigate the Grand Canyon in a 3-D environment.

Explore the Grand Canyon / Coriolis Group; Media Terra / (800) 410-0192, (602) 483-0192 / $50 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 717*

INTERACTIVE SAILING ●●●

I was thinking this Windows CD was one of the most boring CDs I saw in a long time when two weekend sailors visited me. They thought Interactive Sailing was great, and fought to play with it. Interactive Sailing simulates racing a 30-foot yacht through various courses, either alone or in competition with other boats. For me, it was filled with jargon that isn't explained as "crew members" shout at you when you do something wrong. Somehow I wound up winning a race by simply ignoring what was going on (which means the skill level can't be very high). It proves the old saying that those who can, do, and those who can't, play software simulations. For me, the best thing about Interactive Sailing is that you're a lot less likely to heave over the rail. But judging from the reaction of the sailing enthusiasts, this must be second best to the real thing.

Interactive Sailing / Expert Software / (800) 759-2562, (302) 234-1740 / $40 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 718*

DRIVIN' ROUTE 66 ●●●

Nostalgia buffs, start your engines. Drivin' Route 66 can be the family vacation you never took as a kid. It harkens back to a time when U.S. Route 66 symbolized the freedom of the open road and human imagination, as seen in the eccentricities of cafés, motels, and tourist traps from Chicago to Los Angeles. Route 66 hasn't even been an official highway since 1985, but its history and

●●●●● *King of the mountain.* ●●●● *Prince of the hills.* ●●● *Duke of Earl.* ●● *Count of the time-share.* ● *Janitor of the YMCA.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES McGOON

Are We There Yet? Learn about the kicks of Drivin' Route 66.

character are evident along the way—the U-Drop-Inn Cafe, the smiling blue whale that lies in an ancient swimming hole, the tallest totem pole, and the Cadillacs that an artist planted into the Texas dirt because . . . well, just because. The disc also includes a collection of ancient cars, a really lame trip planner, and recollections of the highway denizens who contribute to an oral history. But the CD never answers the important question, "Why isn't this a video?" It's not really interactive, but it would definitely be a decent half-hour show on cable.

Drivin' Route 66—America's Main Street / Creative Multimedia; Cambridge Digital / (800) 262-7668, (503) 241-4351 / $20 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 719*

TROPHY BASS ○○○○

I don't know a lot about fishing, but I do know this: Fish don't bite every time you cast your line. Unless, of course, you're running Trophy Bass on your PC. This Windows CD has everything you need for virtual fishing, except maybe a couple of six-packs. You can make your fishing trip as realistic or as tedious as you want by boating around to different fishing spots, choosing a certain lake, picking your tackle, and changing your casting style. Or you can simply click on Quick Fish, and the program puts you in some fantasy fishing hole where hungry fish beg to be caught. It strikes me as either too easy or too filled with trivial tasks. But then I don't have an "I'd Rather Be Fishing" bumper sticker on my car. But if you do, nibble on this CD.

Trophy Bass / Sierra On-Line / (800) 757-7707, (206) 649-9800 / $55 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 720*

OLYMPIC GOLD ○○

Speaking of outdoors, when this year's Olympics were planned, did anyone consider just how hot it gets in Atlanta in the summer? Sure, the gyms will be air-conditioned, but you'll be a lot more comfortable watching the outdoor sports as they're presented on Olympic Gold. (Then again, you might prefer to sweat for your Olympic thrills.) The CD is comprehensive but never exciting. There are 100 video clips and a couple thousand photos, but most of the information is presented in a text format that's difficult to scroll. And do you really want to read the detailed rules of each event or track each country's participation? If you're that much of an Olympic freak, then you're probably in Atlanta right now, come hell or hot weather.

Olympic Gold / Discovery Channel Multimedia / (800) 678-3343, (317) 579-0413 / $40 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 721*

ONE SMALL SQUARE: BACKYARD ○○○○

If you're looking to keep the kids busy this summer, One Small Square: Backyard will get them outside, or at least out of your way. This Windows CD shows that there's enough wildlife (and death) in your own backyard to rival an African safari. The narrated illustrations and animations show the struggles fought in a few square feet of ground throughout the four seasons. The CD may be trying to suggest the horrors of nature, but it just gave me a headache. But then, we adults aren't the target audience, are we? Which brings me to the best part of the CD, the one that gets the rascals outside: The disc gives details on experiments that children can conduct themselves with common household utensils. The experiments are fun and won't leave noticeable scars on the kids. It's essentially an excuse to dig in the dirt, which kids like to do anyway. Just be sure to make them wash up before touching your keyboard.

One Small Square: Backyard / Virgin Sound and Vision / (800) 814-3530 / $35 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 722*

JUST ME AND MY DAD ○○○○

This Windows CD is great for Father's Day. But it's somewhat disappointing, only because anything by Mercer Mayer promises so much. The disc adds playfulness to Mayer's storybook, which the CD is based on. Each of the 12 scenes where Little Critter and his father go camping are loaded with "hot spots" that produce surprises when clicked on. Sometimes the surprises are wonderful, such as trees that cycle through a rainbow of colors or coffee pots that turn into rocket ships. But too often the surprises are simply what you would expect: an owl that goes *"who-who"* or a bird that flies. For the young couch spud, the disc also contains a video cartoon version of the story that's more fleshed out than either the book or the "hot-spot" version. All in all, kids will love this CD—and I give it a high rating just for that—but it could have been a bit more.

Just Me and My Dad / GT Interactive / (800) 610-4848, (212) 726-6500 / $40 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 723*

BIG JOB ○○○○○

This is a CD that's hard to resist: It's a chance to play with all those trucks, construction machines, and big-job tools that fascinate kids of any age. The setting's a secret clubhouse in a junkyard. (Could you ask for a better location?) Clicking on one spot takes you to music videos of front-end loaders, dump trucks, firefighters, and tractors. Clicking on another section lets you build your own town by clipping and dragging roads, houses, and factories. Best of all, when you're through, you can blow up your creation and nobody has to know. Click again to build your own dream machine to print out and save, or click, yet again, and . . . *you get to steer a truck!* Everything about this CD is big, easy, and fun: Mama, don't let your child grow up without playing with Big Job.

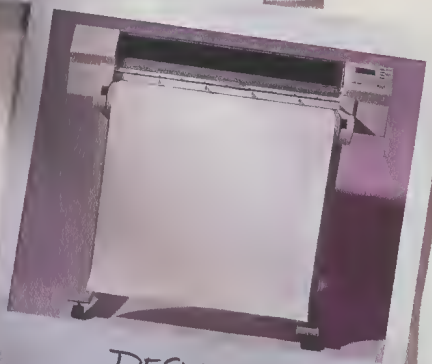
Big Job / Discovery Channel Multimedia / (800) 678-3343, (317) 579-0413 / $40 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 724*

Move It! Kids of all ages can keep on truckin' with Big Job.

DO NOT REMOVE THIS CLAMP

LASERJET

DESKJET



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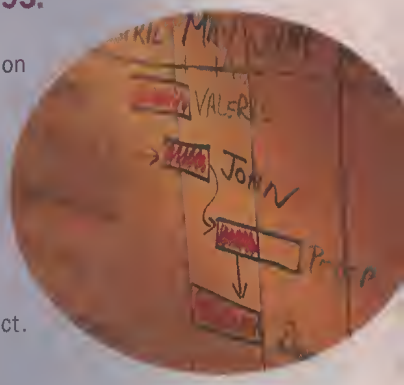
Introducing new Microsoft Project for Windows 95.



Now you can manage projects more simply, more smoothly, by communicating project information as it occurs. With new Microsoft® Project you can convey project status quickly and effectively so your boss, customers, and coworkers are always in the loop. From sharing task deadlines and responsibilities, to letting people know about changes and the impact they'll have on the deadline, you have the tools to organize your projects into manageable steps and keep them moving in the right direction. New Microsoft Project unlocks the doors of communication and gives you the power to navigate the most efficient route to a successful end product.

Graphical views let teammates visualize where the project is going.

With Microsoft Project you can display project data in ways that everyone can understand. Great-looking Gantt Charts integrate text, timelines and graphical bars so everyone can see start and finish dates, interdependencies and task assignments. Throughout your project, you can also use a Monthly Calendar report to share your plan in a format that's clear and easy to read. And since Microsoft Project shares many of the same key commands with other Office applications, it will be easy to create schedules and reports. But if at any time you need help, type in a question and the Answer Wizard gives you the information you need. Microsoft Project helps you illustrate every phase of your project so you and your team keep your goals in sight.

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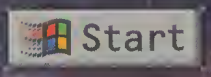
Keep everyone moving on the same track with open lines of communication.

Microsoft Project is completely integrated with a wide range of e-mail systems* and Schedule+ so that with a single click, changes and additions are immediately distributed to and from teammates. Assignments, task changes, and progress can be communicated and updated without ever reentering information, so you save time and eliminate mistakes. And because Microsoft Project is a member of the Office family, sharing data between programs is easy. For example, you can start building a schedule by simply dragging a task list out of Microsoft Excel and dropping it directly into your Microsoft Project plan. You keep communication clear and information consistent and your project continues to move exactly the way you planned.



Now you can take full advantage of Windows 95.

Microsoft Project is the world's best selling project management software and now is optimized to work hand-in-hand with the 32-bit performance, advanced multitasking, and simplified user interface of the Windows® 95 operating system. Together, they help open the lines of communication. Together, they help you enhance the way you manage your projects.

In

SYNOPSIS

INTERNET SUITES: *All-in-one software lets you cruise with ease.* **120**

ANALOG ACCELERATES: *The best 28.8Kbps modems.* **126**

DIGITAL DELIVERS: *Combo modems give the best of both worlds.* **130**

EASIER ISDN: *Phone companies simplify digital services.* **137**

GET CONNECTED: *The top 40 ISDN-ready Internet service providers.* **138**

Tick, tick, tick. You're on the Internet, and the meter's running. But a badly designed browser and a slow modem are wasting your valuable time. Get the right tools, though, and you can break the speed limit, bypass the traffic jams, and zip to the front of the line. A new generation of smart Internet suites, bandwidth-busting cable modems, and ultrafast analog-ISDN combination modems can kick your Internet setup into high gear.

The latest crop of 28.8Kbps analog modems keeps up the pace even on the noisiest phone lines. If you're lucky enough to have ISDN access, a combo modem—one that works on either analog or digital phone lines—can feed your PC at over four times the standard

New tools make your Internet access faster and more reliable

ternet at Warp Speed

BY CHRIS O'MALLEY

analog rate. If that still isn't fast enough, cool new cable modems just around the corner will boost your speed a hundred times or more.

Once you hook up your high-speed hardware, one of today's top Internet suites can get you to the good stuff more quickly and easily than ever. These all-in-one Internet kits let you browse the latest Web pages, download files in a flash, send and receive e-mail, sift through newsgroups, and get right to the best Net resources.

But if you're going to upgrade, you might as well get the best. So *PC Computing* lined up the competitors to see who would put up—and who would shut down. Choose your new gear from our top picks, and we'll see you in the fast lane.

Internet **Survival** Kits

The Internet has a lot more to offer than Web pages. Usenet newsgroups invite you to read and post messages about interests ranging from small-business accounting to UFO abduction. FTP sites give you access to programs and files anywhere in the world. Internet Relay Chat (IRC) channels let you converse in real time with hundreds of people around the globe. And don't forget the telephone of the 1990s: e-mail.

Taking advantage of all those resources used to require a hodgepodge of software and considerable savvy. But now you can find the requisite tools in a single Internet suite and cruise the Net without being an expert. We selected four of the best suites for scrutiny in *PC Computing*'s Usability Labs: Microsoft's Internet Explorer 2.0, Netscape's Navigator 2.0 (a beta version), Symantec's Delrina Cyberjack 7.0 (part of the Delrina CommSuite), and Quarterdeck's InternetSuite 2.0. If you want to make the most of your Internet experience, look no further: You'll find the right Internet suite among these contenders.

Putting Suites to the Test

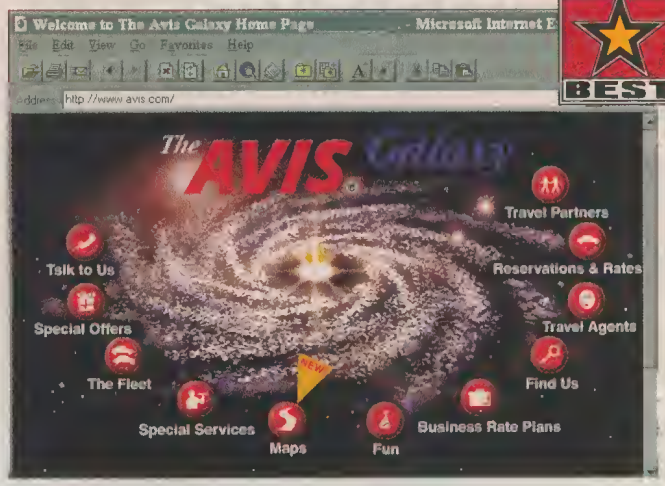
Every suite we examined supported the major Internet features, including sending and receiving e-mail, searching for information on the Web, working with placeholders (bookmarks), downloading files, and participating in newsgroups.

So far, perfection eludes the Internet suite makers. In particular, all need to find a better way to navigate newsgroups. But despite their weak Usenet features,

Frame of Mind: Cutting-edge features like frames give Netscape's Navigator 2.0 the technology lead—for now.

Navigator 2.0 / Netscape Communications / (415) 528-2555 / $49 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 810*

PC Computing BEST



Fresh Face: Navigator has the lion's share of the market, but our testers found Internet Explorer (above) easier to use.

Internet Explorer 2.0 / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / free / *Reader Service No. 811*

Internet Explorer and Navigator proved to be the best of the lot. Delrina Cyberjack lagged only slightly behind, with InternetSuite 2.0 trailing the field. Internet Explorer uses standard Windows 95 controls and icons—comforting for anyone who'd rather not spend time learning a new product. Navigator isn't as easy to use, but the veteran product still leads the industry by taking advantage of the latest Internet technology—including JavaSoft's Java programming language, which lets developers create flashy, interactive Web pages. Cyberjack came close behind, offering unmatched newsgroup-wizard technology and creative, animated graphics. And while InternetSuite 2.0 made it easy to find information and download files, we were generally disappointed with Quarterdeck's upgrade to last year's runner-up MVP product (see "MVP: Web Browsers," December 1995, page 192).

I-Way Exploration Microsoft may be a relative newcomer to the Internet market, but you wouldn't know it from using Internet Explorer 2.0. Microsoft's suite ran neck-and-neck with longtime market leader Netscape's Navigator 2.0. Click once and you can send pages, Web addresses, messages, and files. The competition simply can't keep up with the seamless integration of Microsoft's e-mail manager, Exchange, which lets you receive all your e-mail in one place.

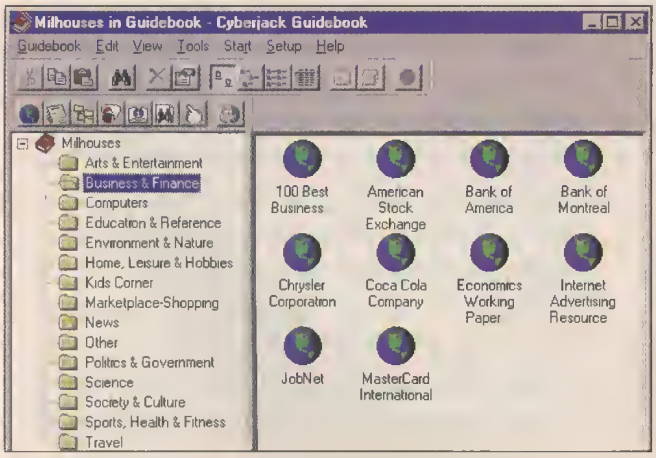
Internet Explorer's one-button access to Microsoft Network's search page makes it a snap to find information. The suite's Favorites feature lets you save your favorite sites and drag files from those sites to your PC. While Internet Explorer's Usenet newsgroup viewer lacked basic search tools, none

of the other products did much better in that regard. Explorer finished just ahead of Navigator and earned *PC Computing*'s Usability Seal of Approval.

Java and Beyond No other product matches Navigator 2.0's cutting-edge technology or its nearly 75 percent market share. Navigator, too, earned our Usability Seal of Approval. While not as slick as Microsoft's Internet Explorer, Navigator has an all-in-one e-mail client that's simple to use. Also, searching for information is a no-brainer with Navigator's Search toolbar button.

Navigator's drag-and-drop Bookmarks feature makes it easy to collect and organize your favorite sites. When you're downloading, Navigator lets you select a location for the file and provides constant feedback about download status, including an estimate of how much longer the download will take. Unfortunately, as with the other suites, Navigator's newsgroup support needs some work. The unhelpful interface uses cryptic buttons that confuse more than assist.

Personal Cyberguide Symantec's Delrina Cyberjack 7.0 may not be a big name in the field, but it performed admirably overall. Newsgroup wizards made searching for and subscribing to newsgroups an almost pleasant experience—though it still wasn't enough to earn the suite a passing grade for this feature. Cyberjack does earn kudos for its intuitive

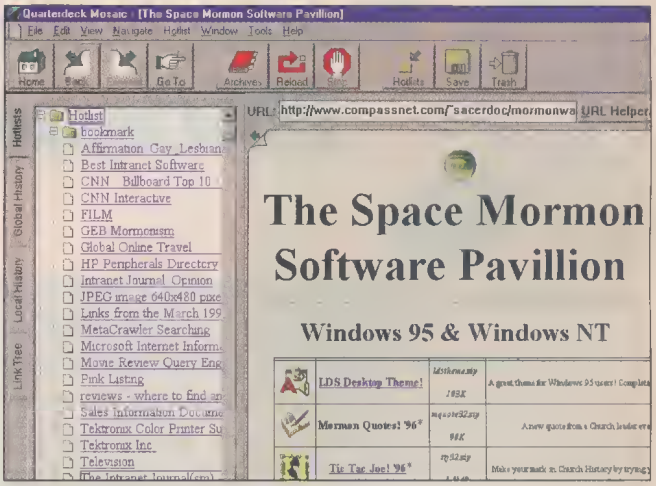


Guided Tours: The Guidebook in Symantec's Delrina Cyberjack keeps your favorite pages within easy reach.

Delrina Cyberjack 7.0 / Symantec / (800) 776-9043 / $49 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 812*

method of sending e-mail. Receiving mail is another story: Cyberjack's hard-to-find in-box requires users to start up Microsoft's Exchange.

Cyberjack's interface lacks a search button, but a handy status bar and animated graphics let you know what the browser is doing. Cyberjack's Guidebook, a sort of Internet information manager, lets you create and nest folders full of your favorite Web sites. It even comes with hundreds of sample sites to try. Like the other suites, Cyberjack makes it easy to download files to your hard disk.



Split Personality: The Hotlist feature in Quarterdeck's InternetSuite 2.0 may leave some users confused.

InternetSuite 2.0 / Quarterdeck / (800) 683-6696 / $40 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 813*

Slow Start Facing stiff competition, Quarterdeck's InternetSuite 2.0 finished last. Our testers found it more difficult to use than either Microsoft's Internet Explorer or Netscape's Navigator.

InternetSuite 2.0's e-mail features are passable if unremarkable, letting you send and receive messages, files, or Web sites with only a few clicks. The browser's search functions are equally mediocre, except for a useful URL Helper that corrects address typos. InternetSuite 2.0's HotList toolbar button makes it a cinch to save favorite sites, but managing HotList folders may be confusing for some users. Worse, there's no status display when you're downloading files, and accessing Usenet newsgroups in InternetSuite 2.0 will frustrate just about anyone. Still, it's a workable alternative, despite all the flaws. It's also the only package that includes both 16-bit and 32-bit versions in one product, so Windows 3.1 users aren't left out in the cold.

In the Driver's Seat

If ease of use is paramount and you're familiar with Windows 95's interface and features, you've got nothing to lose with Microsoft's free Internet Explorer 2.0. If you demand cutting-edge technology, such as integration with JavaSoft's Java programming language and a variety of multimedia plug-ins like Macromedia's Shockwave, choose Netscape's Navigator 2.0. Newsgroup mavens won't find a prince among all these Usenet frogs, but at least Symantec's Delrina Cyberjack 7.0 is nice looking. Finally, if you're still using Windows 3.1, Quarterdeck's InternetSuite 2.0 may be all you need.

As you search for a new suite, remember: The Internet market is evolving at an incredible pace. New products and improved versions of these suites are just around the corner. At press time, Microsoft was close to releasing Internet Explorer 3.0 (codenamed Sweeper), and an early version of Navigator 3.0 had arrived from the Netscape camp. Stay tuned, and check our Web site (www.pccomputing.com) for late-breaking reviews.

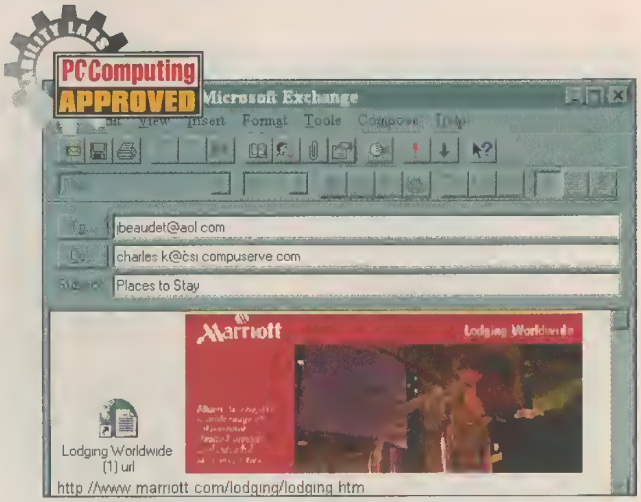
Usability Report Card

Microsoft, Netscape

Each of the four Internet suites we reviewed includes all the features you need for a complete Internet experience. But Internet suites are worthwhile only if you can easily find your way around their features. So *PC Computing*'s Usability Labs had a group of Internet-savvy testers put all four suites through a rigorous examination.

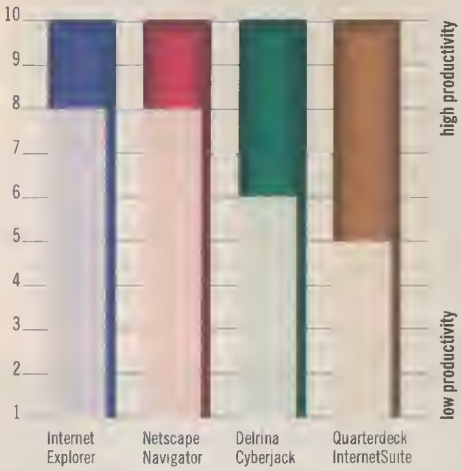
The testers followed a script that measured e-mail integration, information retrieval, saving favorite locations, file downloading, and Usenet newsgroup access. When the dust settled, Microsoft's Internet Explorer 2.0 and Netscape's Navigator 2.0 were neck-and-neck as our testers' favorites. Symantec's Delrina Cyberjack 7.0 came in a close second, followed by Quarterdeck's InternetSuite 2.0. However, our testers agreed that all the products need better newsgroup access.

The familiar interface and terminology in Microsoft's Internet Explorer increased testers' productivity and overall satisfaction, helping to earn it our Usability Seal of Approval. Netscape's Navigator 2.0



Smart E-mail: Microsoft's Internet Explorer 2.0 makes sending and receiving e-mail a breeze. One mouse click opens Microsoft's Exchange e-mail organizer and automatically inserts the current Web site's address in the new message. You can then add more text or attach files before sending.

Productivity Index



Internet E-mail

Internet Explorer	Netscape Navigator	Delrina Cyberjack	Quarterdeck InternetSuite
Yes	Yes		

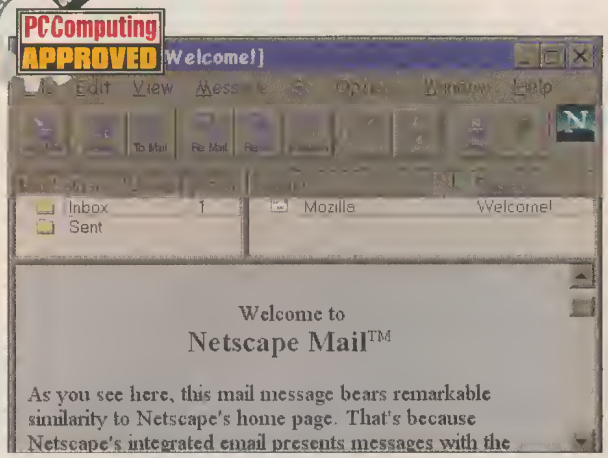
Save a Stamp: The e-mail function in Netscape's Navigator has helpful icons, powerful file handling, and a smart interface. Microsoft's Internet Explorer is closely integrated with Microsoft's Exchange, providing seamless e-mail access. Delrina Cyberjack lacks its own in-box, which makes for clumsy e-mail handling. E-mail in Quarterdeck's InternetSuite requires extra steps.

Finding Information

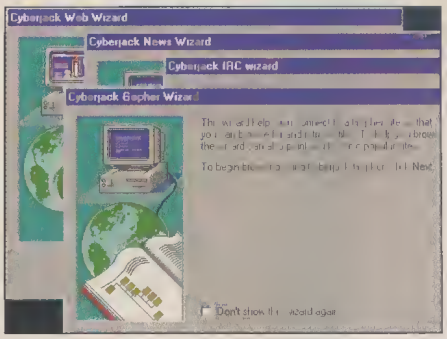
Internet Explorer	Netscape Navigator	Delrina Cyberjack	Quarterdeck InternetSuite
Yes	Yes		Yes

Find What You Need: The simple yet elegant interface in Microsoft's Internet Explorer and the hierarchical directory view of LinkTree in Quarterdeck's InternetSuite let you surf around the Web with ease. Buttons in Netscape's Navigator are clearly labeled, and its search functions are effective. The search function buttons in Delrina Cyberjack left our testers looking for more direction.

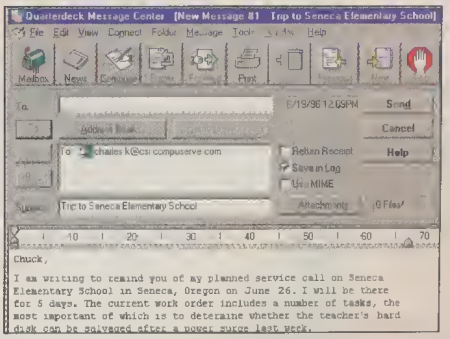
Tame the Internet



Express Mail: The e-mail window in Netscape's Navigator 2.0 makes messaging painless with easy-to-read buttons and a straightforward interface.



Help on the Way: Can't tell a Gopher from a hole in the ground? Helpful wizards in Symantec's Delrina Cyberjack 7.0 show you all you need to know about common Internet features.



Lost in the Mail: Sending e-mail in Quarterdeck's InternetSuite 2.0 is a snap, but a confusing interface makes receiving messages frustrating.

also earned our Usability Seal of Approval with its thorough, efficient set of features. It is the only product that supports leading Internet technologies like Java, scrollable frames, and plug-ins.

Testers found some bumps in Symantec's Delrina Cyberjack 7.0 and Quarterdeck's InternetSuite 2.0. Erratic interface design and incomplete or confusing e-mail features left testers scratching their heads at times. However, Cyberjack 7.0 does include the most useful online help. The product also makes it easy to download files and comes with a handy Guidebook for organizing your Internet wanderings.

If you want the very best, leading-edge Internet suite, consider either Internet Explorer 2.0 or Navigator 2.0. If you're into serious organization, look at Delrina Cyberjack 7.0. Finally, Windows 3.1 users may want to give InternetSuite 2.0 a whirl. Download versions of all four products for a test drive at www.pccomputing.com.

Working with Bookmarks

Internet Explorer	Netscape Navigator	Delrina Cyberjack	Quarterdeck InternetSuite
Yes	Yes	Yes	

Return Ticket: Find a great site? The Favorites folder in Microsoft's Internet Explorer and the improved Bookmarks feature in Netscape's Navigator make it easy to save your favorite URLs for quick return visits. In Delrina Cyberjack, the unique Guidebook—a sort of information manager—works nicely. The Hotlist in Quarterdeck's InternetSuite is less helpful, and its URL Helper proved confusing.

Downloading Files

Internet Explorer	Netscape Navigator	Delrina Cyberjack	Quarterdeck InternetSuite
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Fetch Those Files: The Internet's file-transfer protocol lets you retrieve files from servers worldwide. All passed in this category, but only Delrina Cyberjack and Microsoft's Internet Explorer garnered perfect scores. Cyberjack's animated graphics provide great feedback. Netscape's Navigator and Quarterdeck's InternetSuite offer adequate status reporting and file management.

Easy Web Solutions

At first glance, you might think that all Internet suites are created equal: After all, a browser's a browser, right? Wrong. Our usability testing proved otherwise. While any browser can display Web pages on your screen, Microsoft's Internet Explorer 2.0 and Netscape's Navigator 2.0 are clearly more efficient tools than their competitors. But while both products earned our Usability Seal of Approval, testers found Internet Explorer slightly more appealing and productive than the market-leading Navigator.

If price is a concern, you'll be pleased to know that Microsoft distributes Internet Explorer 2.0 free of charge with Windows 95. And in this case cheap does not mean cheesy: Internet Explorer 2.0 boasts full-featured e-mail, intuitive Favorites (placeholders), and tight integration with Windows 95 and Microsoft's Exchange. If you're concerned about compatibility with cutting-edge technologies, you'll want Navigator 2.0. At this writing, only Navigator supports exciting new Web features such as frames, third-party plug-ins, and applets written in JavaSoft's Java language. For the moment, Navigator also commands an overwhelming market share. But the Web browser wars are heating up, and there's a good chance that Internet Explorer will soon sport all the advanced features Navigator has, and then some.

As for the other products tested, Symantec's Delrina Cyberjack 7.0 offers some impressive bells and whistles, including a Guidebook—a cyberorganizer for recording your Web travels. Windows 3.1 users looking for a starter package should check out Quarterdeck's InternetSuite 2.0, which has a smart, simple interface. Its Hotlist offers a clean, efficient drag-and-drop scheme that Netscape users still long for. But in the most important categories—e-mail and Web browsing—Cyberjack and InternetSuite 2.0 don't match the excellence of the leading apps. Even so, whatever your Internet needs, there have never been better choices to get connected. RICH SCHWERIN

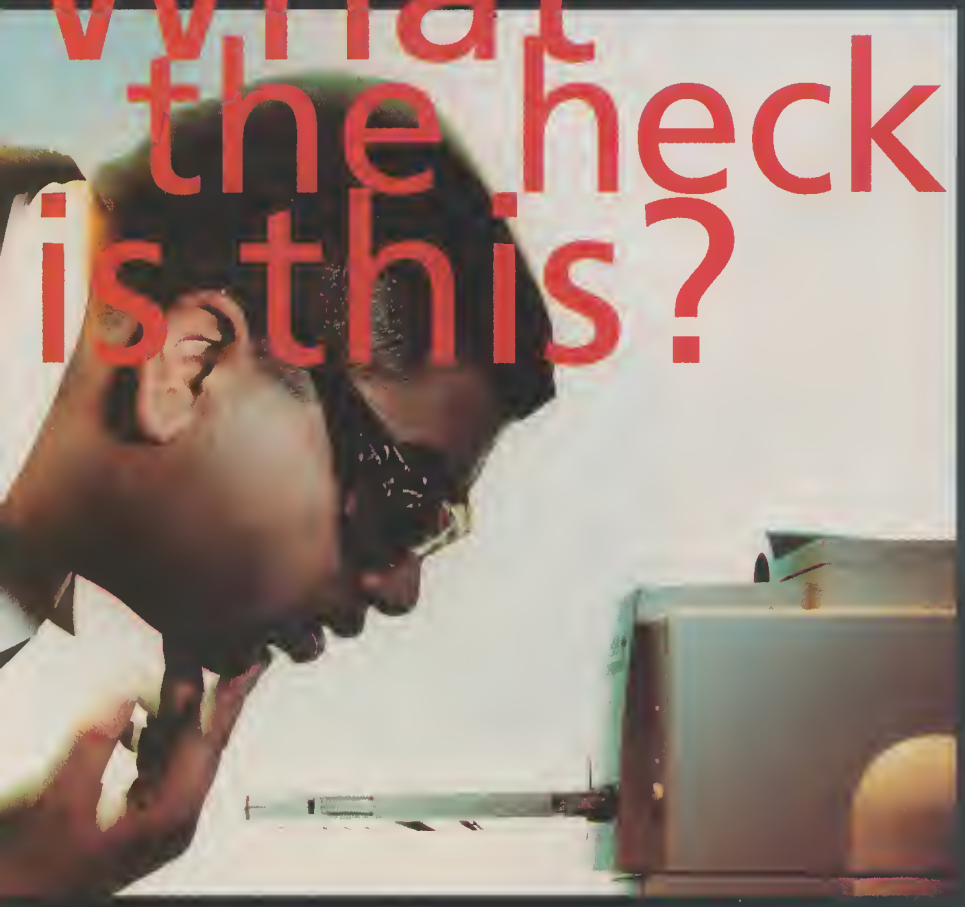
Usability Lab testing was performed by LULIT BEZUAYEHU *and* LYDIA M. KARLOWICZ.

DECISION MAKER

CHOOSE THE RIGHT **INTERNET TOOLKIT** FOR YOUR NEEDS

1 Choose the factor that's most important.	2 Choose the next most important factor.	3 What else is important?	4 For your needs, the best product to buy is . . .
Web Browsing	Usability	Integration	Netscape Navigator 2.0
		E-mail	Microsoft Internet Explorer 2.0
	Price	Integration	Netscape Navigator 2.0
		E-mail	Microsoft Internet Explorer 2.0
Usability	Web Browsing	Integration	Netscape Navigator 2.0
		E-mail	Microsoft Internet Explorer 2.0
	Price	Integration	Netscape Navigator 2.0
		E-mail	Microsoft Internet Explorer 2.0
Price	Web Browsing	Integration	Netscape Navigator 2.0
		E-mail	Microsoft Internet Explorer 2.0
	Usability	Integration	Microsoft Internet Explorer 2.0
		E-mail	Microsoft Internet Explorer 2.0

What the heck is this?



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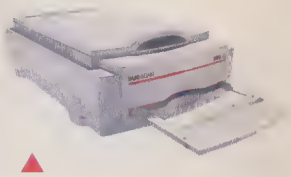

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WHAT DO YOU SEE?

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Circle 168 on reader service card.

Top of the Line **Modems**

Analog is dead. Long live analog. Whichever sentiment you lean toward, it's clear that analog phone lines will be the most common online communication medium for years to come. That means the modems we count on to convert digital bits into electronic sound waves and back will hang around for a while as well.

But they won't be the same old beige boxes. Today's analog modems are testing the limits of simple copper wire, funneling data at 28.8Kbps with increasing consistency and holding on to less than ideal connections with tenacious dexterity. Many modems include fax, voice mail, paging, and Caller ID as standard equipment. And several top performers sell for around $200.

Modem Mastery: Hayes's Optima 288 V.34 Business Modem tops all contenders in features and performance.

Speed Costs

Want a great all-purpose modem? You'll find few better than Hayes's Optima 288 V.34 Business Modem. In addition to fax, voice mail, and Caller ID, the Optima Business Modem topped the performance list, blowing through our series of tests that simulate actual business conditions. It makes a good choice for large file transfers, with the most efficient data compression and error correction of the bunch. It's not the least expensive modem around, with a street price of over $400. But it's worth it.

The Optima Business Modem does have some less expensive competition, notably from Motorola's ISG Power Class 28.8 and Practical Peripherals' ProClass 288MT V.34 modems. These garnered second and third place, respectively, in our throughput tests. And both did slightly better than the Optima when transferring data over less than ideal phone-line conditions. The ProClass 288MT also gets a special nod for value: It sells on the street for less than $200.

Stick to It

If you live where connections can get dicey, you need to consider Microcom's DeskPorte 28.8P. No modem in this group proved better at riding the roller coaster of phone-line quality, handling everything our phone network simulator dished out. However, it proved only average, at best, when transferring files using V.42. The DeskPorte does include both a standard serial-port connector and a much faster parallel-port interface.

Dual-Port Power: A high-speed parallel-port interface gave Microcom's DeskPorte 28.8P a performance edge.

Zoom Telephonics' V.34X Zoom/FaxModem followed the DeskPorte pattern: It excelled at maneuvering data through the hazards of unstable line conditions, but was unimpressive in straight file transfers. But like the ProClass 288MT, it's priced to move, with its $159 street price.

There was nothing wrong with Diamond's SupraSonic 288V+, Prometheus Products' CyberPhone, Multi-Tech Systems' MT2834ZDX, or Cardinal Technologies' MVP288XV modems—but there was little remarkable about their performance, either. All finished in the middle to low range of the pack on our phone-line and file-transfer tests. Two extras worth noting: Multi-Tech's modem includes a "virtual" driver that lets applications share a single communications port without conflicting, and Prometheus's CyberPhone supports full-duplex speakerphone operation.

There *is* something wrong with Best Data Products' Smart One 2834VLX. It finished last in both of our throughput tests. And while it includes voice mail—and it doesn't cost much—you can't ignore the substandard performance. At least Best Data includes a cable for attaching the modem to your PC. Only Microcom and Diamond do the same.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERNIE FRIEDLANDER

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2	7.70	[illegible]		

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In search of the perfect PC? Just ask *Business Week*. In its First Annual Computer Buying Guide, the Dell Dimension XPS P133c was rated #1 among the "Best Bets for PC Buyers."* That's another best for Dell, a company famous for delivering the best performance, the best features, the best value. But that's probably not news to you, is it?

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*Tests conducted by the National Software Testing Laboratories, a division of McGraw-Hill, Cos. Published in *Business Week*, November 6, 1995. †For a complete copy of our Guarantees or Limited Warranties, please write Dell USA L.P., 2214 W. Braker Lane, Suite D, Austin, TX 78758. ◊Business leasing arranged by Leasing Group, Inc. ★Prices and specifications valid in the U.S. only and subject to change without notice. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. MS, Microsoft, Windows and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. ©1996 Dell Computer Corporation All rights reserved.

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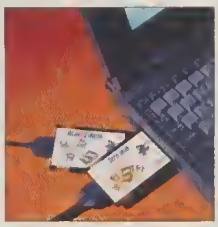

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Top 28.8Kbps Modems

Product	Price*	Software	Other Features	Pros	Cons	Verdict
PCComputing BEST **Hayes Optima 288 V.34 Business Modem** (770) 840-9200 *Reader Service No. 814*	$419	Hayes Smartcom Message Center LE, America Online	Voice mail, Caller ID, fax on demand	Supports remote modem configuration, fax on demand, and paging.	Brief paper manual directs you to online manual for detailed modem settings; no serial cable.	★★★★★ It costs a bit more, but it doesn't skimp on performance or extras.
Microcom DeskPorte 28.8P (800) 822-8224 *Reader Service No. 815*	$210	America Online, Global Village's FaxWorks 3.0	Fax	Reliable on noisy lines; includes serial and parallel cables; Windows 95 Plug and Play-compatible.	No voice support.	★★★★ It's fast, reliable, and how about that price?
Motorola ISG Power Class 28.8 (800) 566-3266 *Reader Service No. 816*	$300	America Online, CompuServe, Smith Micro's QuickLinkII Fax	Fax	Supports remote configuration; has a reset button on the back of the modem.	No serial cable; no voice support.	★★★★ Speedy reliability at a fair price.
Practical Peripherals ProClass 288MT V.34 (800) 964-2937 *Reader Service No. 817*	$199	America Online, Smith Micro's QuickLinkII Fax, Symantec's Delrina WinFax Lite 3.0	Caller ID, fax	Includes top-of-the-line communication software; modem displays onscreen help for modem commands.	No serial cable.	★★★★ High performance and good stability for penny pinchers.
Cardinal Technologies MVP288XV (800) 775-0899 *Reader Service No. 822*	$209	America Online, TalkShop 1.1 for Windows 3.1, Global Village's FaxWorks, Voice for Windows, CompuServe	Voice mail, Caller ID, fax	Windows 95 Plug and Play makes for easy installation; unique status lights can be viewed horizontally or vertically.	Modem slows under heavy file transfers; no serial cable.	★★★ Sleek design but poky performance.
Diamond Multimedia SupraSonic 288V+ (800) 727-8772 *Reader Service No. 818*	$289 list	TradeWind's CoMit, Supra's FaxTalk	Voice mail, Caller ID, fax	Includes cable and headset; sleep mode reduces power consumption.	LCD is informative but can be hard to read; modem is tricky to set up.	★★★ Once you get it installed, it won't slow you down.
Multi-Tech Systems MT2834ZDX (800) 328-9717 *Reader Service No. 823*	$189	America Online, CompuServe, MultiExpress Data/Fax, Virtual Modem Driver	Fax	Unique Virtual Modem Driver lets applications from different vendors share one modem.	Status lights can be hard to see; some trouble with noisy lines; no serial cable.	★★★ A buy for people with perfect phone lines.
Prometheus Products CyberPhone (800) 477-3473 *Reader Service No. 819*	$199 list	TradeWind's CoMit Lite, America Online, ProCD, CompuServe, CyberWorks	Voice mail, full-duplex speakerphone, fax	Custom CyberWorks software mimics a real phone when in full-duplex speakerphone mode.	No serial cable.	★★★ Rich with features, but a middle-class performer.
Zoom Telephonics V.34X Zoom/FaxModem (800) 631-3116 *Reader Service No. 820*	$159	America Online, CompuServe, Symantec's Delrina WinFax Lite and DosFaxLite, TradeWind's CoMit for DOS and Windows	Fax	Top-notch software bundle; very easy to set up.	No serial cable.	★★★ An adequate performer for a below-average price.
Best Data Products Smart One 2834VLX (800) 632-2378 *Reader Service No. 821*	$149	America Online; Prodigy; Cheyenne Bitware fax, modem, and voice	Voice mail, fax	Includes cable; easy to set up; voice-mail system includes advanced features like pager notification.	Sluggish during file transfers.	★★ Full of features, but performance is subpar.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Digital Supermodems

Analog modems work easily and universally, albeit somewhat slowly. High-speed digital or ISDN modems can still be tricky business, but hit speeds of up to four times faster and are a logical step toward the speeds of tomorrow. So why not bridge the gap with a modem that does both?

That's the thinking behind a new class of combination analog-digital modems. They are one part standard analog modem, usually the 28.8Kbps variety, and one part ISDN adapter. Such combo units can be an attractive solution not only for those who simply want to hedge their bets, but also for anyone planning to tap ISDN in the near future. Almost invariably, ISDN users end up falling back to their analog modems, since many phone services don't yet support ISDN connections—and because ISDN service is known to go down on occasion.

Classy Combo: U.S. Robotics' Courier I-Modem with ISDN and V.34 handles analog or digital data with style.

The Right Combination

We looked at three leading contenders in this emerging modem category: U.S. Robotics' Courier I-Modem, 3Com's Impact, and Motorola's Hybrid Modem TA 200. Prices range from about $650 to $750, including the required NT-1 adapter for connecting to an ISDN outlet. As you might suspect, these combo modems yield distinct strengths and weaknesses.

U.S. Robotics' Courier I-Modem pleased us with an easy setup routine and lucid, detailed documentation. The company even supplies an ISDN number you can use to see if your modem is configured properly. Our test modem had a maximum ISDN data-transfer rate of 64Kbps and did not support the 128Kbps MultiLink Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) standard for using two ISDN channels as a single data pipeline. U.S. Robotics promises to deliver this feature as a free software upgrade, however. The Courier I-Modem supports analog rates of 28.8Kbps for data and 14.4Kbps for fax.

Despite helpful setup software, Motorola's Hybrid Modem TA 200 took us hours to get going. But its top-notch features make the rather difficult journey worthwhile. It supports both standard 64Kbps and MultiLink PPP 128Kbps ISDN data-transfer rates, as well as analog transfer rates of 28.8Kbps for data and 14.4Kbps for fax. It's also an industrial-looking and industrial-strength modem with a handy front panel full of buttons for direct dialing or programming.

Hot Buttons: Front-panel controls make it easy to configure Motorola's Hybrid Modem TA 200.

Make an Impact

3Com's Impact ISDN modem impressed us as a superb choice for ISDN connections, with built-in support for both 64Kbps and 128Kbps MultiLink PPP data-transfer rates over ISDN lines. However, it was needlessly held back by a 14.4Kbps analog modem. Also, V.32bis data compression wouldn't work, so we got exceptionally poor file-transfer rates over regular analog lines. Mark this one an ISDN adapter with backup analog support instead of a best-of-both-worlds product. It's also available without the analog modem for about $250 less.

Each of these modems carries an important caveat: Setting up an analog-digital modem is the easy part. Getting ISDN service from the phone company still takes patience—and sometimes even a sense of humor (see "Cable Modems: The Fastest Way to Get Online," page 133). And getting ISDN to work consistently takes considerable trial and error. Expect to make a service call or two to your phone company.

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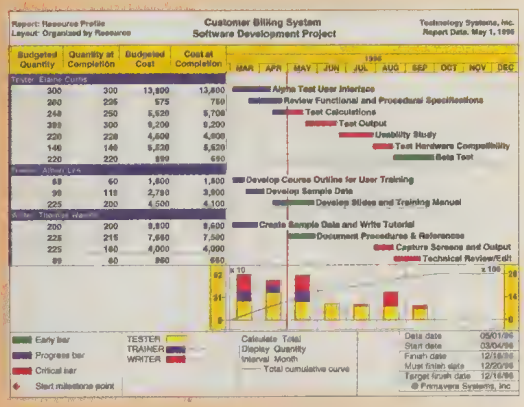
Circle 165 on reader service card.

InsideTrack.



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Circle 214 on reader service card.

SureTrak

Top Analog-ISDN Modems

Product	Price*	Max. Transfer Rate	Software	Other Features	Pros	Cons	Verdict
PC Computing BEST **U.S. Robotics Courier I-Modem** (800) 877-2677 *Reader Service No. 824*	$650	64Kbps ISDN data, 28.8Kbps analog data, 14.4Kbps fax	Smith Micro's QuickLink II, built-in NT-1 adapter	None	Easy configuration; detailed documentation; ISDN test number to call.	128Kbps MultiLink PPP not available at test time (should be available soon).	☆☆☆☆☆ Simple, fast, and complete communications. What more could you want?
Motorola Hybrid Modem TA 200 (800) 566-3266 *Reader Service No. 825*	$750	128Kbps ISDN data, 28.8Kbps analog data, 14.4Kbps fax	Supra's FaxTalk Plus	On-modem setup buttons	Useful setup software; buttons let you program the ISDN adapter directly.	LCD status screen hard to read under some light conditions; time-consuming setup.	☆☆☆☆ Industrial-strength ISDN joins with high-speed analog.
3Com Impact (800) 638-3266 *Reader Service No. 826*	$649	128Kbps ISDN data, 14.4Kbps analog data, 14.4Kbps fax	Symantec's Delrina WinFax Lite and WinCom Lite	Voice mail	3Com manual and online help make installation smooth.	Analog limited to 14.4Kbps.	☆☆☆ Slow on analog lines.

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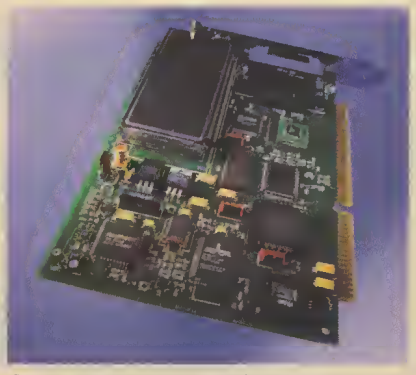
CABLE MODEMS THE **FASTEST** WAY TO GET ONLINE

Watch out, ISDN, here comes cable—as in TV. If the cable companies have their way, that coaxial wire in your office or living room may soon become your primary information pipeline, courtesy of an upgraded TV system and a cable modem.

Why the clamor over cable modems? In a word, bandwidth. Coaxial cable has plenty to spare even after delivering *NYPD Blue* and *E.R.* to your television. Cable modems can potentially deliver more than 10 *million* bits per second (10Mbps) to your PC. By comparison, standard analog phone lines max out at 33Kbps, while digital ISDN lines can go only as high as 128Kbps in most cases. Even the high-speed, expensive T1 phone lines peak at about 1.5Mbps—still a fraction of cable's abilities.

All this bandwidth translates into speed. Web pages appear almost instantly. File downloads that take 10 minutes with a 28.8Kbps modem arrive in less than 30 seconds. Real-time, high-resolution video is suddenly practical. Cable's not just faster—it's a whole different league of fast.

A consortium of cable companies known as CableLabs is working out the technical details of converting one-way cable TV systems into two-way information-delivery systems—a massively complex and costly undertaking. And equally deep-pocketed network players are working to ensure that it happens.



Supersonic Surfer: General Instruments' prototype SurfBoard cable modem pushes 10Mbps.

Cable television giants such as Tele-Communications Inc. (TCI), Time Warner, and Viacom are investing billions of dollars into upgrading their TV networks to handle two-way traffic. And all of them are conducting live trials. In the meantime, AT&T, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Motorola, Zenith Data Systems, and other companies have developed prototype cable modems and are working on more polished versions. These modems will most likely be external boxes that connect to your PC via a standard Ethernet port.

Some cable companies will begin limited service in earnest this year, with larger-scale rollouts slated for 1997. At first, cable modems might be leased like set-top boxes rather than sold.

Whether or not cable can beat the phone companies to high-speed heaven remains to be seen. But two big factors seem to tilt the odds in its favor: Cable TV lines already exist in most American households, and the deregulation of telecommunications companies already has cable and phone companies joining forces.

So keep your modem, but keep an eye on that TV.

The Speed You Need

When it comes to modems, speed rules. By that criterion, it's hard not to like Hayes's Optima 288 V.34 Business Modem on the analog side of the aisle. It was the fastest of the group and had plenty of extras, including voice mail and caller identification. You pay nearly twice as much for this edge, however, so it's worth considering some of the less expensive runners-up, such as Motorola's ISG Power Class 28.8, Microcom's DeskPorte 28.8P, and Practical Peripherals' PC288MT V.34.

For $200, Practical Peripherals' modem, which ranked high in every throughput test, delivers the most performance for the dollar. It and the modems from Motorola and Microcom each did a great job of sustaining high data-transfer rates through difficult phone-line conditions in our test simulations.

If it's speed you're after, look into ISDN. But given the phone companies' slow move toward ISDN, forsaking analog is a bad idea for now. The slow change is also what makes combo analog-ISDN modems such a good idea (see "Digital Supermodems," page 130).

We like U.S. Robotics' Courier I-Modem with ISDN and V.34 for its polished feel, including easy setup, a great manual, and thoughtful support features. At this writing, it supports only the standard 64Kbps data-transfer rate, but the company promises a free software upgrade to the dual-channel 128Kbps rate embodied in the MultiLink PPP standard. With that in place, this will be a very nice bridge product indeed.

Motorola's Hybrid Modem TA 200 has MultiLink PPP in place now, making it an appealing package. But its setup wasn't as simple as the Courier I-Modem's. Still, it's an excellent choice. Choose 3Com's Impact if your usage is overwhelmingly over ISDN lines. It's got all the right features for ISDN, but only a 14.4Kbps analog modem.

Whether you go for the speed of ISDN or the affordability of analog, this latest round of hardware will make your online time fly faster than ever.

CHRIS O'MALLEY *is a writer who specializes in video and telecommunications. Lab testing was performed by* DAISY ZHAO.

DECISION MAKER

CHOOSE THE RIGHT **MODEM** FOR YOUR NEEDS

1 Choose the factor that's most important.	2 Choose the next most important factor.	3 Do you want ISDN or only analog support?	4 For your needs, the best product to buy is . . .
Performance	Price	Analog	Practical Peripherals PC288MT V.34
		ISDN	U.S. Robotics Courier I-Modem
	Features	Analog	Hayes Optima 288 V.34 Business
		ISDN	Motorola Hybrid Modem TA 200
Price	Performance	Analog	Practical Peripherals PC288MT V.34
		ISDN	U.S. Robotics Courier I-Modem
	Features	Analog	Prometheus CyberPhone
		ISDN	U.S. Robotics Courier I-Modem
Features	Price	Analog	Prometheus CyberPhone
		ISDN	U.S. Robotics Courier I-Modem
	Performance	Analog	Hayes Optima 288 V.34 Business
		ISDN	U.S. Robotics Courier I-Modem

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ISDN Gets Easier

It's true: An ISDN modem really can be more than four times faster than an analog modem. That means faster Web surfing, shorter download times, and more productive online time. What's the catch? Getting ISDN installed takes a lot more than just calling the local phone company and asking for it. Last year, the process required effort from both the phone company and the customer. Getting an ISDN line may be easier these days, but it's still far more difficult than having a regular analog phone line installed.

Your first hurdle may be finding someone at the phone company who even knows about ISDN. Fortunately, ISDN-related customer service has improved at many companies. Large telephone companies have toll-free numbers for ISDN information, and the efficient ones tell you everything you need to know about the installation process before you decide to proceed. Of course, many phone companies still lack significant ISDN experience.

Once you find the right person, ask if ISDN is available in your area. If you live too far from the telephone company's switching center, you may be out of luck. Some phone companies even perform feasibility studies before they accept or deny your request. If the study says you don't qualify, you have to wait until the company upgrades its current switching centers or installs one closer to you. Call again in six months.

If you live in an area with access, you'll have other concerns. For instance, your ISDN line will be nothing more than a large, empty data pipe at first. To fill it, you need additional equipment, including an NT-1, which connects your home's or business's internal wiring to the external ISDN lines. You'll also need a terminal adapter, which connects the internal lines to your computer. Some phone companies rent these products, or you can purchase them as part of an ISDN modem package. 3Com, Motorola, and U.S. Robotics all offer combination packages for under $750.

If you currently rely on Caller ID, call return, call waiting, conference calling, and other services, be sure to ask your phone company which ones are supported by ISDN. In many cases none are, so you may have to wait for those features.

ISDN can also be expensive. Installation costs range from under $100 to over $500, although some phone companies are offering free installation as a promotion. Monthly fees start at under $30 and run to over $100. Be warned that some companies are raising their rates—and under some plans you may even be charged by the hour. Be sure to ask exactly what your complete ISDN connection will cost.

Of course, once you download a file in a quarter of the time it used to take, or watch Web pages flash onto the screen almost instantly, all those ISDN installation hassles and headaches will quickly vanish.

NEIL RANDALL

Phone Company	Service Areas	Installation/ Monthly Fee	What to Watch For
Ameritech (800) 832-6328 *Reader Service No. 827*	IL, IN, MI, OH, WI	$113 to $135/$28 to $99, depending on state	Service available in about 80 percent of coverage area.
Bell Atlantic (800) 570-4736 *Reader Service No. 828*	DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV	$120 to $170/$31 to $50, depending on state	Residential service not available in all states.
BellSouth (800) 428-4736 *Reader Service No. 829*	AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN	$58 to $270/$68 to $126, depending on state and options	Service available in most major metropolitan areas.
GTE (800) 483-4926 *Reader Service No. 830*	CA, FL, HI, ID, IL, IN, KY, NC, OH, OR, PA, TX, VA, WA	$80 to $155/$30 to $50, depending on state	New rate plans should drop prices in coming months.
Nynex (800) 438-4736 *Reader Service No. 831*	MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT	$130 to $320/$25 to $46, depending on state	Installation time varies by location.
Pacific Bell (800) 472-4736 *Reader Service No. 832*	CA, NV	$160 to $195/$25 to $32 (business or residential service)	Installation fee waived if you sign a two-year commitment.
SNET (800) 430-4736 *Reader Service No. 833*	CT	$265/$50	Covers all of Connecticut.
Southwestern Bell (800) 792-4736 *Reader Service No. 834*	AR, KS, MO, OK, TX	$500 to $600/$46 to $93, depending on state	Service available only in limited areas.
USWest (800) 630-6300 *Reader Service No. 835*	AZ, CO, IA, ID, MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY	$60 to $110/$39 to $68, depending on state and options	Very limited service in Montana and Wyoming.

NOTE ISDN IS NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN ALASKA.

Ultrafast Web Access

The phone company finally installed your ISDN line. Now you need to find a digital-ready Internet service provider to help you take advantage of all that speed. Many phone companies offer Internet connections, but you might be able to find a better deal with another provider. Just be sure to have some idea of your needs before you begin looking. For example, an account that provides unlimited access usually costs more than one that offers a set number of free hours per month. Choosing the wrong type of account could end up costing you more than ISDN's speed will save.

ISDN Internet	Service Areas	Installation/ Monthly Fee
Able Communications (408) 280-1000 *Reader Service No. 836*	CA (San Francisco Bay Area)	$325/$25 to $210, depending on number of hours
ABSnet (410) 361-8160 *Reader Service No. 837*	MD; Washington, D.C.; parts of VA	$100 to $600/$30 to $120, depending on number of hours ($200 to $350 per month for dedicated line, depending on speed and contract)
Akorn Access (770) 569-1550 *Reader Service No. 838*	GA	Free/$250 to $450 for dedicated line, depending on speed
APK Net (216) 241-7166 *Reader Service No. 839*	OH	$29 to $1,000/$29 to $600, depending on speed, number of hours, and type of connection
The Black Box (800) 255-2691 *Reader Service No. 840*	TX	$100/$20 to $350, depending on speed and connection type
Brainstorm Networks (415) 988-2900 *Reader Service No. 841*	CA (San Francisco Bay Area)	$295 to $1,245/$278 to $978, depending on speed and hours
Communiqué (800) 463-8975 *Reader Service No. 842*	LA (New Orleans)	$35 to $400/$35 for dial-up access with no time limits ($300 to $500 per month for dedicated line, depending on speed)
Computer Variations (619) 294-7310 *Reader Service No. 843*	CA (San Diego)	$35 to $195/$19 to $49, depending on number of hours
The Destek Group (800) 656-9547 *Reader Service No. 844*	New England	$350 to $400/$225 to $300, depending on type of use

ISDN Internet	Service Areas	Installation/ Monthly Fee
Dimensional Communications (303) 295-6949 *Reader Service No. 845*	CO (Denver)	$25 or $100/$50 or $300, depending on speed
FullFeed Communications (608) 246-4239 *Reader Service No. 846*	WI	$600/$400 for dedicated line
Hawaii Online (800) 291-5951 *Reader Service No. 847*	HI	$50 to $100/$25 to $50
Hookup Communications (905) 847-8000 *Reader Service No. 848*	Ontario, Canada	CD$500/CD$333
ICOnetworks (800) 461-4638 *Reader Service No. 849*	CA (Santa Cruz, Monterey)	$120/$36 for 45 hours, $2 per extra hour ($395 to $595 per month for dedicated line, depending on speed)
Intac Access Corp. (201) 944-1417 *Reader Service No. 850*	NJ	$75 for SLIP and/or PPP dial-up access via ISDN/$40 for unlimited access
Internet Access Group (800) 380-4424 *Reader Service No. 851*	FL	$200 to $250/ $65 to $130
Internet Channel (800) 722-7900 *Reader Service No. 852*	NC	Free/$150 to $300 per month, depending on speed (no hourly fees)
Internet Oklahoma (800) 360-5183 *Reader Service No. 853*	OK	$295/$295 to $695, depending on speed and number of hours

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Digital Connections: The Top ISDN Service Providers

ISDN Internet	Service Areas	Installation/ Monthly Fee
InterRamp/PSINet (800) 827-7482 *Reader Service No. 854*	All states except AR, HI, ID, KS, MA, ND, NE, SD, WA, WV, WY	Free/$9 for 9 hours, $29 for 29 hours, plus unlimited non-prime time hours
ISDN-Net (615) 377-7672 *Reader Service No. 855*	TN	$50/$30 for 30 hours ($325 to $445 per month for dedicated line, depending on speed)
Jet.Net (800) 765-3604 *Reader Service No. 856*	CA	$125 to $500/$49 to $595, depending on speed and number of hours
Magma Communications (613) 228-3565 *Reader Service No. 857*	Ottawa, Canada	CD$35/CD$7.50 to CD$70, depending on number of hours
On the Net (800) 918-7873 *Reader Service No. 858*	MO	$350 residential, $750 commercial/$65 to $550, depending on speed, number of hours, and type of connection
Orbis Internet Services (612) 645-9663 *Reader Service No. 859*	MN	$75 to $550/$39 to $649, depending on speed and type of connection
OuterNet Connections (512) 345-7873 *Reader Service No. 732*	TX	$75 to $650/$50 to $565, depending on number of machines, speed, and type of connection
Pacific Rim Network (800) 591-2757 *Reader Service No. 733*	WA	$20/$60 for 40 hours, $2 per extra hour
PacketWorks (813) 446-8826 *Reader Service No. 761*	FL	$400/$300 to $700 for dedicated line, depending on speed
Plymouth Commercial Internet Xchange (PCIX) (617) 741-5900 *Reader Service No. 762*	CT, MA, RI	$75 to $500/$75 for unlimited dial-up access ($300 per month for dedicated line)
ThePoint Internet Services (812) 246-7187 *Reader Service No. 763*	IN, KY	$250/$60 for 75 hours ($250 per month for dedicated line)
RustNet (810) 642-2276 *Reader Service No. 764*	MI	Free to $50/$40 to $100, depending on contract

ISDN Internet	Service Areas	Installation/ Monthly Fee
ServNet Internet Services (206) 789-4155 *Reader Service No. 776*	WA (Seattle)	$50 to $275/$30 to $200, depending on speed and number of hours
Sierra-Net (702) 832-6911, (916) 546-1036, or (619) 794-6381 *Reader Service No. 777*	CA, NV	$100 (setup fee waived with annual subscription)/$75 for 40 hours, $175 per quarter, or $650 per year
Sonnet Networking (800) 506-6546 *Reader Service No. 806*	CA (Central Valley)	$29 to $89/$29 for 25 hours, $1.95 per extra hour
SpaceLab (212) 966-8844 *Reader Service No. 807*	New York City	Free/$30 to $500, depending on type of connection, speed, and number of hours
Surf Communications (800) 499-1517 *Reader Service No. 808*	CA (San Francisco Bay Area)	$299 (includes U.S. Robotics' ISDN card)/$19 for 19 hours, $1 per extra hour
Texas.Net (210) 272-8111 *Reader Service No. 809*	TX	$495 to $695/$295 to $495, depending on speed (dedicated-line service)
Third Planet Internet (503) 274-0789 *Reader Service No. 876*	OR	$395 (includes Motorola's Bitsurfer Pro ISDN Modem)/$29 to $323, depending on contract and number of hours
ThruNet (708) 304-5544 *Reader Service No. 877*	IL	$50 to $500/$50 to $650, depending on speed and type of connection
Traveller Information Services (800) 840-8638 *Reader Service No. 878*	AL	$50 to $1,500/$20 to $40 for 20 hours, $1.50 per extra hour ($250 to $425 per month for dedicated line)
UUNET Canada (800) 463-8123 *Reader Service No. 892*	All Canada	Free/CD$50 plus CD$6 per hour (CD$500 per month for dedicated line)
WorldWide Access (312) 803-9921 *Reader Service No. 893*	IL	$30 to $50/$40 to $60 for 200 hours, depending on speed

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ISDN Internet	Service Areas	Installation/ Monthly Fee
InterRamp/PSINet (800) 827-7482 *Reader Service No. 854*	All states except AR, HI, ID, KS, MA, ND, NE, SD, WA, WV, WY	Free/$9 for 9 hours, $29 for 29 hours, plus unlimited non-prime time hours
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Orbis Internet Services (612) 645-9663 *Reader Service No. 859*	MN	$75 to $550/$39 to $649, depending on speed and type of connection
OuterNet Connections (512) 345-7873 *Reader Servi*	TX	$75 to $650/$50 to $565, depending on
Pacific Rim (800) 591-2 *Reader Servi*		
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ThePoint Ir Services (812) 246-7 *Reader Servi*		
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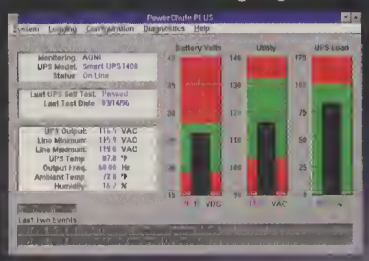

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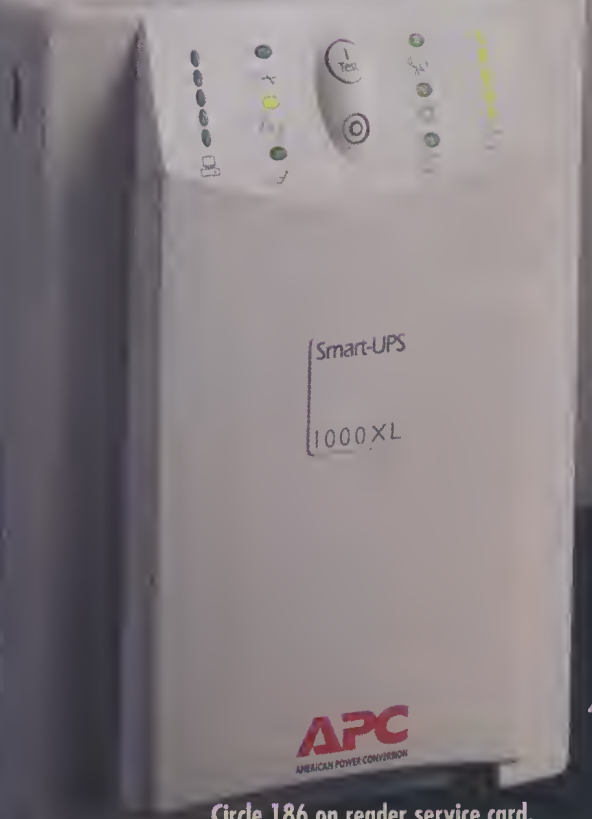

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Intranet Explosion

Internal internets save time and money

Remember how groupware was going to change the world? Everyone was supposed to get connected, and then zap documents and data around the office or the globe with ease. Unfortunately, it didn't happen that way.

But things are changing. Intranets—corporate networks developed using Internet technology—are exploding onto the scene. These do-it-yourself "internal internets" could make traditional groupware obsolete.

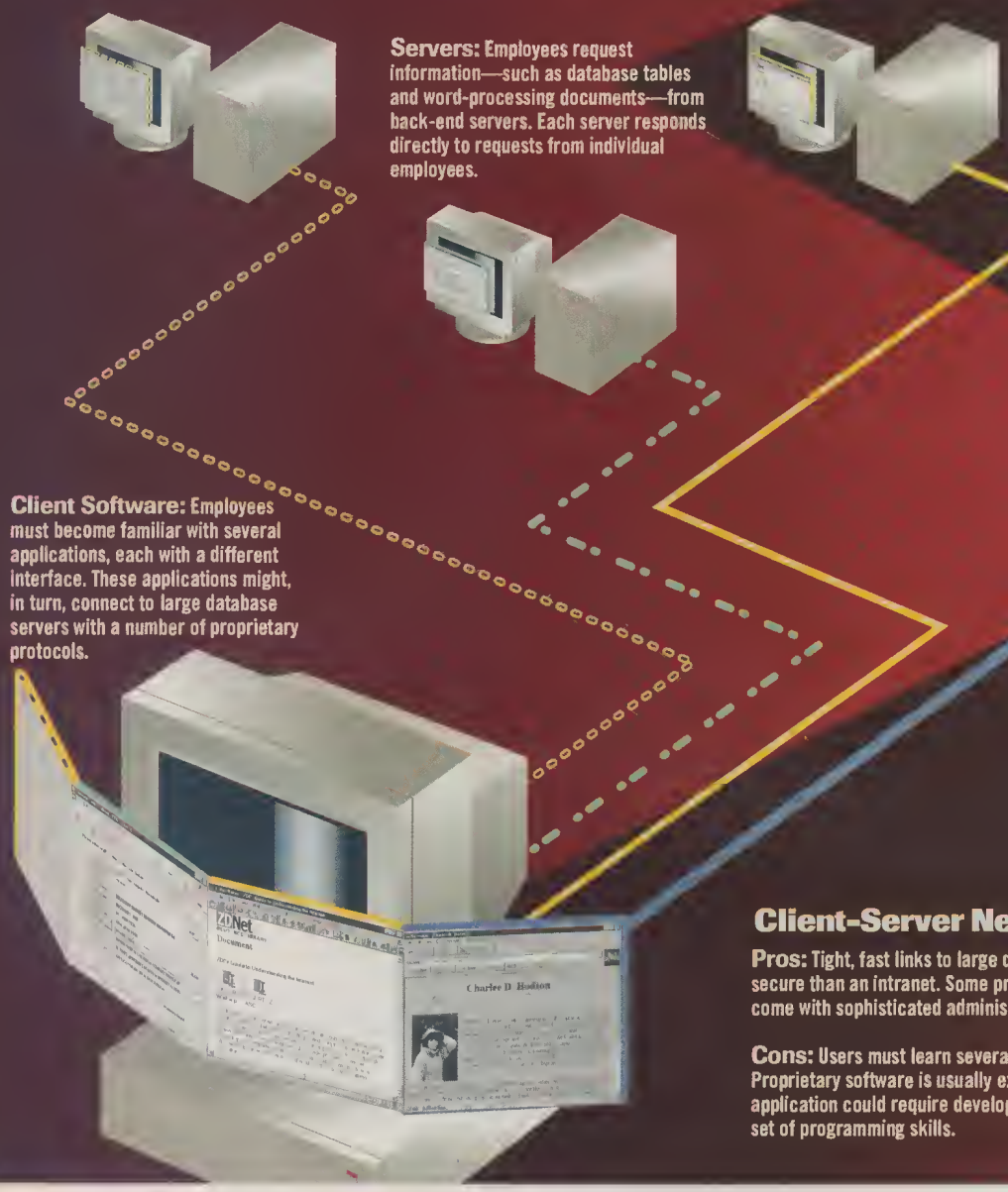
Why does your business need an intranet? Try this: Collect all your corporate-policy manuals, phone lists, and human-resources documents, and put them on your desk. Tough, right? And how many of these are already out of date? With an intranet, the most recent information can be at your fingertips the minute you launch a Web browser.

Benefits at a Glance

- Costs relatively little to set up
- Reduces distribution expenses
- Runs on virtually any platform
- Gives easy access to current info
- Uses a browser interface
- Cuts down on training time
- Shortens development time

BY RANDALL C. KENNEDY

Client-Server Networks vs



Client-Server Networks

Pros: Tight, fast links to large databases. Can be more secure than an intranet. Some proprietary systems come with sophisticated administration tools.

Cons: Users must learn several different applications. Proprietary software is usually expensive. Each application could require developers to learn a different set of programming skills.

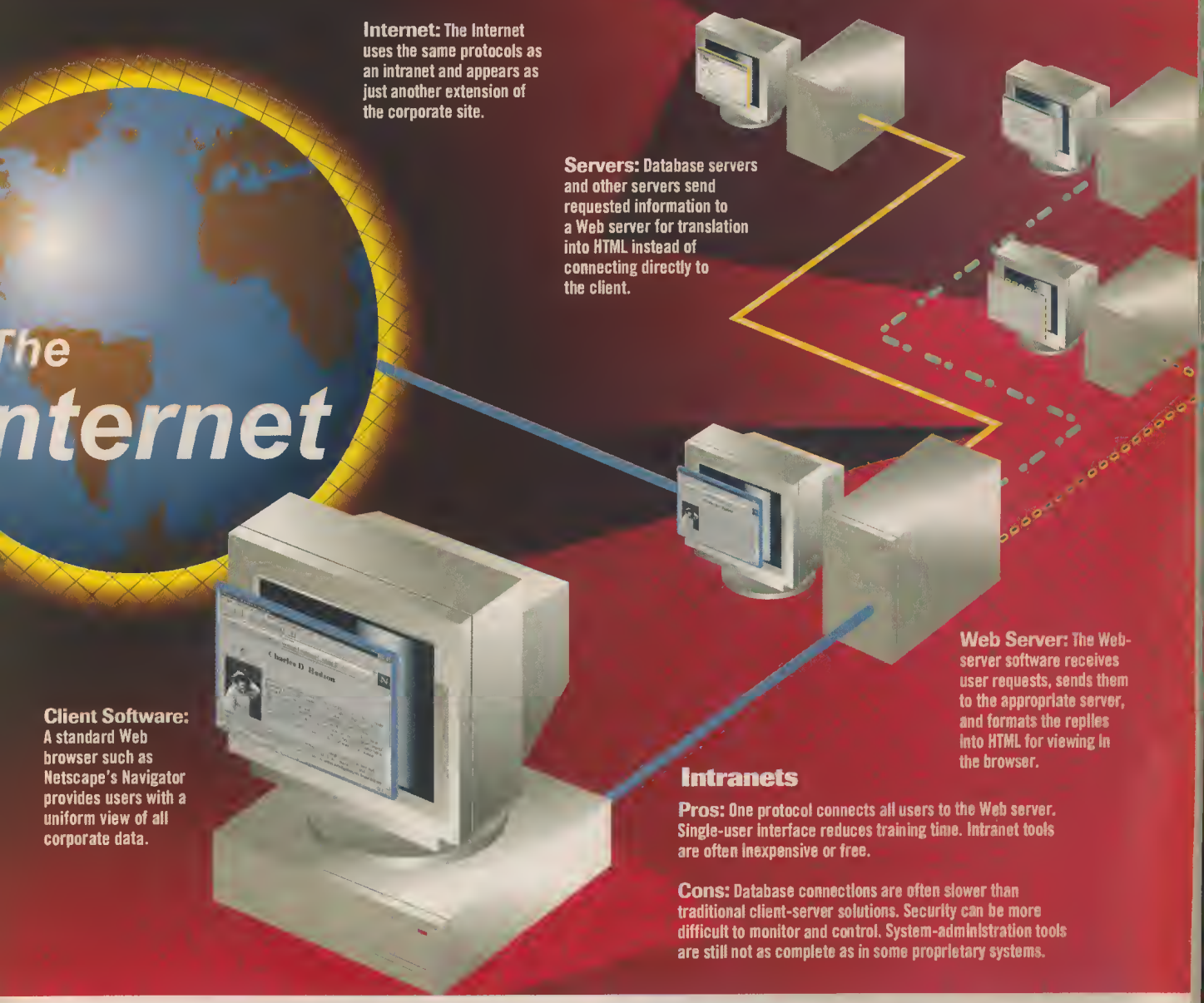
Early groupware products such as Lotus's Notes were too expensive and complex for most companies. Many firms settled for basic e-mail and meeting-scheduling software and left it at that. Intranets are different. There are many freeware and shareware Internet tools you can use to build one, even if you don't plan on providing Internet access to your employees. Also, intranets run on standard protocols supported by just about any computer, including PCs, Macintoshes, and Unix workstations. And you can keep employees interested in your intranet by using hot new Internet technologies such as Macromedia's Shockwave and Sun Microsystems' Java. Even better, what you learn from developing your intranet can later be applied to those external Web sites your customers are beginning to expect.

Intranets use the same technology as the Internet, so you also gain easy access to external information. Users can browse appropriate newsgroups, look at competitors' Web sites, and seek out other useful locations. Afraid your employees will spend all their time reading sports scores or downloading dirty pictures? Don't worry, there are tools to help you control what your users see and do. Confidential information can be kept that way, while public data is distributed freely.

Halfway There

Switching to an intranet may be easier than you think. Intranet tools are available for every operating system from Windows to Macintosh to Unix, and what you develop for one platform will work just fine on all the rest. That means you reduce development time and expense. Instead of

Intranets: How They Work



training programmers on a half-dozen different client and server products, you only need to ensure they know a few basics, such as hypertext markup language (HTML), Common Gateway Interface (CGI), and Java.

An intranet provides a uniform, browser-based window on your corporate world. All information—e-mail, quarterly reports, vacation records, you name it—gets displayed in the same way. Internet-savvy users don't even have to learn anything new. Surfing your intranet will be as natural to them as cruising the World Wide Web.

Application development, too, is easier than on a traditional network. Want to change the look of a client app? Just edit the HTML code on your Web server, and all your users will instantly see the change, regardless of what kind of system they're running: no more tweaking code for every type of client and then struggling to upgrade all users at once.

Does it sound to good to be true? It isn't. Thousands of companies are already investing in intranet technology. And intranet-related tool sales are expected to quadruple by 1998.

There are some potential pitfalls, however. For example, applications that require extra security or tight management may still require traditional client-server tools. But you'll never know unless you investigate.

Just think about it. How many pieces of paper would you like to get out of your way? That weekly sales report everyone has to see, or the perpetually out-of-date company phone list are good places to begin. Of course, once you start using an intranet, it'll be hard to stop. But this is one habit you won't want to break.

Setting Up an Intranet

You may be closer to owning an intranet than you think. If you've already got a traditional network in place, it can be converted to intranet use. And the process doesn't have to cost you a fortune, either. In fact, it could very well cost you nothing but setup time.

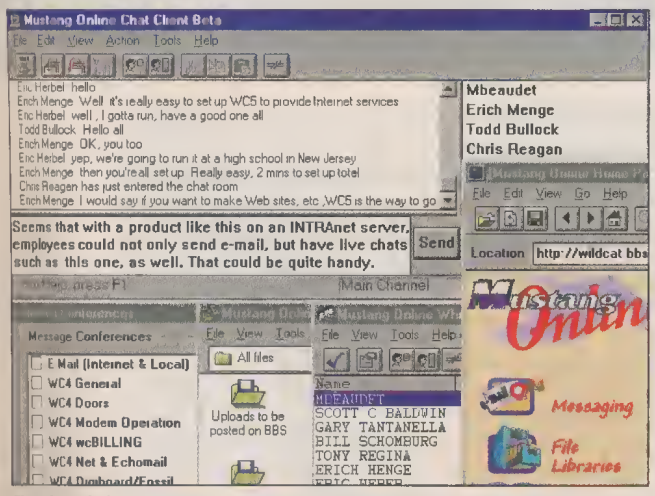
The key component of any intranet is the Web-server software, which runs on a central computer and acts as the clearinghouse for all available data regardless of its source. E-mail, database queries, document requests—everything must go through the Web server before it is sent to a user.

Be sure to evaluate your needs carefully before you select a server. While most Web servers can talk to your databases with basic tools like the Common Gateway Interface (CGI) and the scripting language Perl, some servers (often the expensive commercial ones) supply faster, more direct connections to specific databases. So while that freebie Windows 95 server may be fine for an office of five working with Excel, you might regret it if you decide to hook up hundreds of users to high-performance databases from Oracle or Sybase.

You also need to choose an operating system. Unix has long been the platform of choice for Web servers, but Windows NT Server is quickly becoming a popular alternative—a choice Microsoft promotes by giving away its speedy Internet Information Server to licensed NT Server users. Windows NT Server also offers system-level security and the ability to scale up to more powerful hardware as your needs grow.

Microsoft's free Web server has forced competitors to keep prices low. For example, Netscape's FastTrack Server 2.0 costs only $295. Since FastTrack runs on the $300 Windows NT Workstation as well as the $650 Windows NT Server, you can save a bit of money if you're willing to forgo NT Server's domain-administration features. Still too expensive for you? Then connect Linux, a freeware operating system, to a no-cost Web server like Apache Group's ApacheSSL 1.0.3. Then add some freeware NCSA Mosaic browsers. Total cost: nothing but your time.

Of course, free isn't everything. If you have minimal intranet needs, you can use Windows 95 as your Web server. Some Windows 95 products even come with basic HTML authoring tools. Just keep in mind that Windows 95 was not intended as a multiuser operating system. So if you plan on supporting more than a few users, skip Windows 95 and go right to Windows NT or Unix.



Do It All: Intranets provide inexpensive, easy access to diverse information, from e-mail to phone lists to online chats.

Content, Content, Content!

So now you need to get your company's information onto the Web server. No matter what server you choose, content is king on an intranet. Intranet data typically flows from back-end sources—a database server, a mainframe host, and the like—through the Web server and then out to clients in HTML format. You can easily convert company-policy manuals, expense reports, and newsletters—practically any publishable material—to HTML format. And you can use CGI and Perl to easily connect users to databases. Setting up an e-mail server keeps people in touch with each other.

But as any seasoned Webmaster will tell you, the real challenge is turning the inevitable jumble of hypertext into something employees can actually use. Fortunately, several companies have produced toolkits designed to smooth the process. Hummingbird Communications' Columbus, for example, includes search tools, document-conversion utilities, and a robust suite of Web-management applications—for free. Meanwhile, Frontier Technologies recently announced Intranet Genie, a combination of the company's secure Web server, a suite of HTML authoring tools, and Web browsing and e-mail applications.

Intranet Clients

Once a Web server is in place and full of stuff to see, setting up clients is a cinch. All you need are Web browsers compatible with your users' systems. From Macs to Sparcstations, from 286s to Pentium Pros, whatever computer you have, you can probably find a

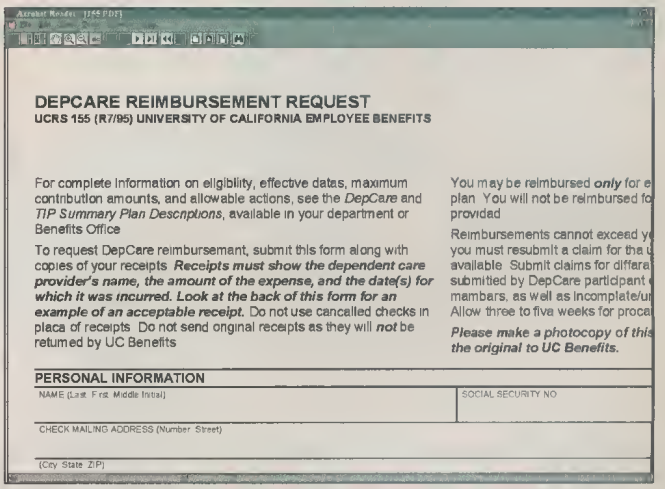
browser for it. Commercial browsers typically cost less than $40, and some (including Microsoft's Internet Explorer) can be downloaded and used for free. Even the indisputable king of browsers, Netscape's Navigator 2.0, comes in a try-before-you-buy version.

Sound simple? It is, but there are some hurdles. For example, while freeware and shareware tools save money, you might end up with limited—or nonexistent—technical support. When something goes wrong, you may have to call several vendors before you isolate which product is causing the problem. Intranets are still in their infancy, too; while intranet administration and security tools are rapidly improving, many still pale in comparison to their proprietary counterparts.

That's not to say you should avoid setting up an intranet. Just remember to keep some things in mind:

- Make sure your server will provide adequate access to corporate data. If you need superfast response, make sure the server supports a direct connection. If performance isn't critical, a CGI solution will work just fine.
- Keep security in mind. Some server–operating system combinations provide more safety than others. You might also want to consider add-on security tools to limit what your users can see and do.
- Know which operating system best fits your needs. Windows NT Server comes with a free Web server. Unix supports the widest range of servers. Windows 95 is inexpensive. Linux is free.
- Intranets are only as good as their data. Someone has to keep things updated, and that takes time. Make realistic estimates of how many resources you can dedicate to your intranet.

If you plan carefully before you start and learn everything you can, an intranet could become one the most powerful tools in your business.



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Form and Function: Filing forms over an intranet cuts down on corporate paper-pushing.

OVERVIEW WILL INTRANETS KILL **LOTUS NOTES?**

Does the advent of intranets spell doom for the flagship Lotus product?

Not likely—at least for now. Although today's intranets can reproduce 80 percent of Notes' features for a fraction of the cost, that missing 20 percent will keep many Notes users in the fold—and attract some new ones.

What can Notes offer that intranets can't? A single programming interface eases life for Notes-savvy programmers. Indexed document databases make it easy for your employees to find what they need. And strong administration tools help you keep an eye on your information.

Lotus's Notes offers another advantage: one-stop shopping. Assembling the pieces you need for an intranet can be a challenge. Each product—from the Web server to the HTML authoring tools to the Web browsers—might come from a different vendor. "One call does it all" is music to the ears of many people—particularly in large businesses.

Lotus and IBM have shown their intent to make Notes play in the intranet world. The free InterNotes Web Publisher 4.0 lets users access Notes data with a Web browser. IBM also bundles its WebNavigator browser in Notes version 4. The idea is to give users the benefits of Notes along with the flexibility of an intranet.

InterNotes Web Publisher is only the beginning. Soon you'll see tighter integration between Notes and those IBM mainframes and minicomputers still used in many companies. And extracting data from big systems is one of Notes' strengths.

Of course, Notes is bound to get beaten on the small- and midsize-workgroup playing fields, but for the enterprise-computing crowd, this groupware veteran is still a force to be reckoned with.

	Lotus Notes	Intranet
Programming Interface	There's only one programming language to deal with, but it requires substantial training.	Standards are still evolving and so are the programming tools, but HTML is easy to learn.
User Interface	Look and feel are left to the programmers, so the interface may not always be consistent.	All data is available through a common interface. You just need to know how to use a browser.
Cost	A client license is required for every workstation. At $69 each, it can quickly sap your budget.	Many Web browsers are free; most commerical browsers cost less than $50.
Technical Support	Since the whole setup comes from a single vendor, there's no question who will support it.	If the pieces come from varied sources, finding help could require several phone calls.

Intranets in Action

Don't wait. Companies are getting payoffs from intranets now. Intranets are inexpensive, easy to install, and more flexible than any other client-server option.

Recording company Geffen Records uses its intranet to help sell Cowboy Junkies and Nirvana CDs. Boeing's intranet helps its engineers design planes. And Turner Entertainment Group applies intranet technology to eliminate paper glut.

While our examples are big corporations, intranet benefits scale to fit a five-person startup as well as an industrial giant.

Geffen Records

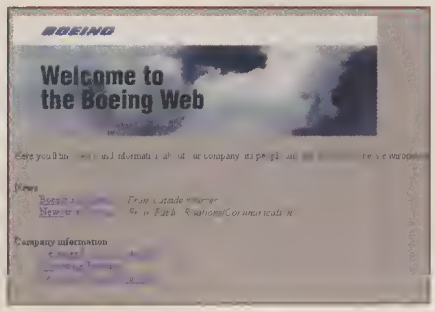
On Geffen Records' intranet, sales charts, video samples, and phone lists exist side by side with external resources such as show listings and music-related newsgroups.

What Did It Take? When Lotus's Notes proved too expensive, Geffen set up an intranet. The company first used browsers to point to HTML files in network directories. But Geffen now uses several Netscape Commerce Servers to distribute information.

What's Next? Geffen's intranet still has a few rough spots. In particular, the company would like to see higher performance connections between its databases and the Web server.

"With an intranet, I decide on what's important. I control the desktop; Bill Gates doesn't."

Jim Griffin, Director of Technology, Geffen Records



Boeing

Boeing's intranet circulates everything from corporate-policy material to maintenance manuals. Staffers are encouraged to publish information that other employees will find useful.

What Did It Take? To cut development costs, Boeing uses public-domain Web servers and browsers. The company is now considering commercial products that offer security.

What's Next? Only 20,000 Boeing employees currently have access to the intranet, though the company expects that number to hit 75,000 by year's end. Once security issues are resolved, Boeing hopes to give its corporate customers limited intranet access.

"Both our suppliers and customers are moving toward using this technology to communicate."

Bob Jorgensen, External Communications Manager for Information System Services, Boeing

Turner Entertainment Group

Turner's in-house servers contain press releases, schedules, product announcements, and other previously paper-based information. Turner also uses intranet e-mail to elicit feedback.

What Did It Take? Turner used humor to get employees interested in the intranet. Turner's home page shows a refrigerator with magnets representing various divisions. Cost: $250,000—far less than a proprietary system.

What's Next? Turner employees will be able to request Web data from wherever they do business. The intranet will send information directly to e-mail accounts, fax machines, or remote printers.

"We like the Web's support for multimedia. We can run a variety of media types—chat sessions, QuickTime, real-time audio. You can't do this with Notes."

Dan Horn, Director of Technology, Turner Entertainment Group

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Intranets Arrive

Like it or not, intranets are quickly becoming ubiquitous—and what's not to like? Intranets save money, time, and trees. Not only that, they can make office life more enjoyable. Imagine never filling out a paper expense report again. Just fire up your browser, fill in a few blanks, and shoot the finished form off to your manager for approval. With the same ease, look up a phone number, apply for vacation time, or check your health-care benefits.

If you can see or hear it, you can probably publish it on an intranet: spreadsheets, database reports, charts, company forms—even sound and video files. Don't have time to attend a meeting? Start up a chat session and talk it out online.

And you get all that flexibility without huge construction costs. Most intranet tools are available in free or low-cost versions, letting you build an inexpensive prototype and then upgrade to more powerful products as you feel the need. So you get all those intranet features for far less money than what you'd pay for traditional client-server tools.

Intranets are also a great way to get used to the future. An intranet running over high-speed Ethernet connections provides a model for what Internet access will be like in the coming years. And what you learn from your intranet easily transfers to the outside world. As a result, those policy manuals and time cards on your intranet could translate into major marketing tools when applied to the Internet.

Does the dawn of this new age of the intranet mean that the sun is setting on IBM's Lotus Notes empire? Not for now. Intranets deliver many of Notes' features (e-mail, electronic document publishing, database links) for a fraction of the cost, and the missing pieces are clearly in the plans of intranet developers everywhere. But if you depend on tight network integration, robust management tools, and ultra-reliable links to mainframes and minicomputers, you may want to wait for a while. Of course, that doesn't mean you can't start that intranet experiment on the side right now.

RANDALL C. KENNEDY *is an Internet developer and a frequent contributor to* PC Computing.

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A good Web server lies at the core of every successful intranet. And it doesn't matter what type of needs or budget you have, there's a server waiting for you. Use our resource guide as a starting point for your server search. (Prices are for direct purchase.)

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Columbus / Hummingbird Communications / (416) 496-2200 / free / *Reader Service No. 779*

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EnterpriseWeb 1.0 beta / Beyond Software / (408) 496-1920 / $6,500 for Group 10; $55,000 for Group 80 / *Reader Service No. 782*

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Internet Connection Server for MVS / IBM / (800) 426-2255 / $2,350 to $10,560 / *Reader Service No. 786*

Internet Information Server / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400 / free with Microsoft's NT Server ($650) / *Reader Service No. 787*

InterNotes Web Publisher 4.0 / Lotus (IBM) / (800) 828-7086 / free / *Reader Service No. 788*

Intranet Genie / Frontier Technologies / (800) 929-3054 / price not yet set / *Reader Service No. 789*

IntraNet Jazz Server / JSB Corp. / (800) 359-3408 / $795 for base server / *Reader Service No. 790*

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Purveyor WebServer for Windows 95/Windows NT / Process Software / (800) 722-7770 / $295 for Windows 95; $495 for NT / *Reader Service No. 792*

QuickServer / Wayfarer / (415) 903-1720 / $5,000 for server and 10-user license / *Reader Service No. 793*

Spry Web Server for Windows NT / CompuServe / (800) 848-8199 / $245 / *Reader Service No. 794*

SuperWeb Server / Frontier Technologies / (800) 929-3054 / $795 / *Reader Service No. 795*

web.sql / Sybase / (800) 792-2731 / price not yet set / *Reader Service No. 796*

TecWeb Server / Tec / (408) 973-8855 / $10,000 / *Reader Service No. 797*

TradeVPI / TradeWave Corp. / (512) 433-5300 / $38,000 for 300 users / *Reader Service No. 798*

WebOLAP Content Server / Information Advantage; Red Brick / (800) 959-6527 / starting at $40,000 / *Reader Service No. 799*

WebNotes Server / OS Technologies Corp. / (508) 597-5500 / $995 for 10 users / *Reader Service No. 800*

WebServer / Quarterdeck / (800) 683-6696 / $129 / *Reader Service No. 801*

WebServer 1.1.1 / Open Market / (800) 801-8504 / $1,495 / *Reader Service No. 802*

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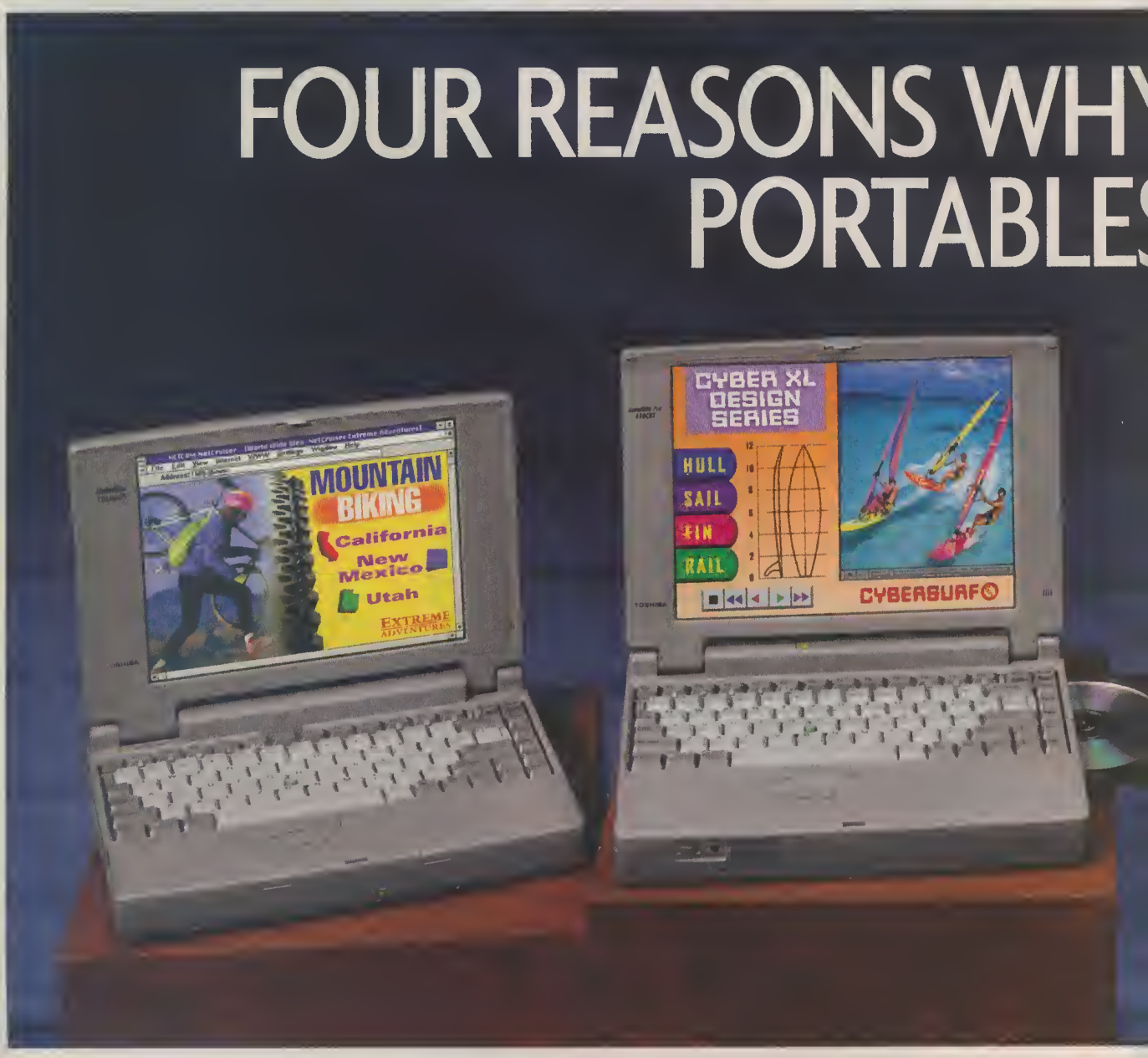

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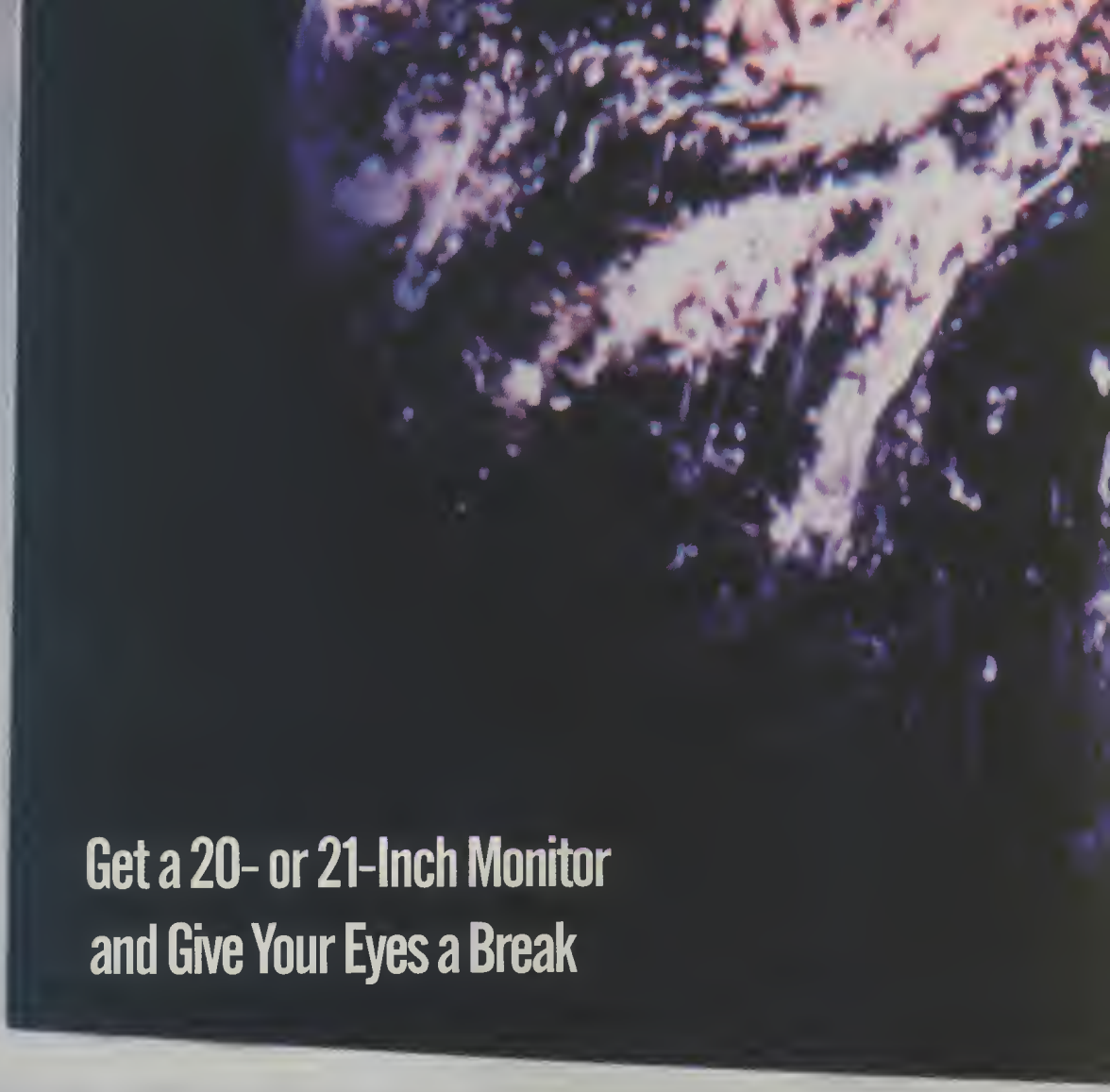


Get a 20- or 21-Inch Monitor and Give Your Eyes a Break

THE BIG

Think big. It's usually a good business strategy—especially when you're talking about monitors. A larger display not only gives you extra inches and pixels, it also reduces the amount of time you spend scrolling through windows and jumping between applications. So it's no surprise that 20- and 21-inch

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERNIE FRIEDLANDER

PICTURE

BY CHRIS O'MALLEY

monitors are today's most coveted screens. Sure, they come with hefty price tags: A 20-inch or bigger monitor can set you back $2,000 and then some. But prices are falling faster than you can say *tilt and swivel.* And the latest supersize screens are arriving in style, with first-rate image quality, ultrahigh resolutions, and Plug and Play.

Reviews: 20- and 21-Inch Monitors

Don't let an apparently small difference in diagonal measurement deceive you: We're talking about a lot more viewing space. For example, a 21-inch monitor provides as much as 60 percent more screen area than a 17-inch monitor, and as much as 100 percent more than a 15-inch monitor.

And more screen space means you can take advantage of your video card at the highest resolutions. Modes like 1,024 by 768 and 1,280 by 1,024 sound tempting, but try using them on a 15- or 17-inch monitor and watch text, icons, and other details fuzz out or disappear altogether. A 20- or 21-inch tube brings these details into focus.

However, to compare monitors by numbers alone doesn't tell much, since most have similar specs. So we instructed our jury of testers to closely examine key details such as focus, flicker, glare, image consistency, and control convenience. The more our testers looked, the more they liked Sony's Multiscan 20sfII. Vibrant, true, and richly saturated colors brought images to life. And the monitor's razor-sharp focus and glare-free screen made viewing a pleasure, as did the Multiscan's convenient, sophisticated controls.

Several of the Multiscan's Trinitron tube mates, such as Eizo Nanao's FlexScan T2-20 and the Multiscan's larger DiamondTron cousins—Mitsubishi's Diamond Pro 21TX and ViewSonic's PT810—were almost as visually impressive, displaying rich colors and superb brightness. ViewSonic's PT810, however, has cryptic controls that are sure to confuse some users.

Eizo Nanao's top-notch FlexScan F2-21 and NEC's stunning MultiSync XP21 prove that traditional Shadow Mask tubes also deliver eye-pleasing images. Both monitors feature excellent built-in controls, but the MultiSync's software controls require a proprietary (and rare) Access.bus connector.

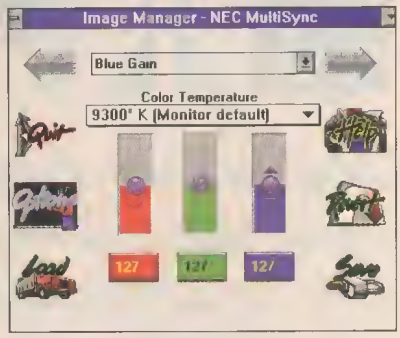
Samsung's Shadow Mask SyncMaster 21GLs wowed our testers in the initial lineup, but was less impressive on closer inspection. Its colors looked best at the brightest settings, but that resulted in a slight loss of focus around the screen's edges. Still, if you want to save several hundred dollars, it's a good compromise.

Unfortunately, neither the software controls nor the image quality of Apple's Multiple Scan 20, IBM's P201, or Mag InnoVision's MX21F were on par with the best in our test. And the somewhat faded colors on Panasonic's PanaSync Pro C-2192P led to a drop in our jury's rating of this otherwise fine monitor.

Looks Count: If you're searching for a well-designed 20-inch monitor with unbeatable color, look no further than Sony's $2,299 Multiscan 20sfII.

USABILITY TWO WAYS TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR MONITOR

Front and Center: For adjusting image settings, Sony's Multiscan 20sfII has sophisticated yet easy-to-understand buttons conveniently located on the front of the unit. Changes are automatically saved in the monitor's memory.



Before Your Very Eyes: You can control the screen directly from your keyboard with NEC's MultiSync XP21 Image Manager software.

Top 20- and 21-Inch Monitors

Product	Price*	Tube Size and Type	Dot Pitch (mm)	Max. Refresh Rates	Pros	Cons	Verdict
PC Computing BEST **Sony Multiscan 20sfII** (800) 352-7669 *Reader Service No. 765*	$2,299	20-inch Trinitron	0.30	85Hz at 1,024 by 768; 75Hz at 1,280 by 1,024; 60Hz at 1,600 by 1,200	Outstanding color and sharp text; convenient, useful controls.	If attached video cable gets damaged, it needs a repair-shop visit.	★★★★★ Stunning any way you look at it. If you can afford it, buy it.
Eizo Nanao FlexScan F2-21 (800) 800-5202 *Reader Service No. 766*	$2,081	21-inch Shadow Mask	0.28	115Hz at 1,024 by 768; 85Hz at 1,280 by 1,024; 72Hz at 1,600 by 1,200	Crisp, sharp images; easy-to-use, built-in controls.	No reset button to restore default control settings.	★★★★ A refined performer at all resolutions.
Eizo Nanao FlexScan T2-20 (800) 800-5202 *Reader Service No. 767*	$2,163	20-inch Trinitron	0.30	108Hz at 1,024 by 768; 80Hz at 1,280 by 1,024; 66Hz at 1,600 by 1,200	Rich, crisp images; easy-to-use controls.	No reset button to restore default control settings.	★★★★ This longtime head-turner is still tough to beat.
Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 21TX (800) 843-2515 *Reader Service No. 768*	$2,199	21-inch DiamondTron	0.30	121Hz at 1,024 by 768; 90Hz at 1,280 by 1,024; 75Hz at 1,600 by 1,200	Rich, superb colors; large viewing area; easy-to-use software controls.	Lacks some high-end color calibration features.	★★★★ One of the biggest and brightest displays.
NEC MultiSync XP21 (800) 632-4636 *Reader Service No. 769*	$2,299	21-inch Shadow Mask	0.28	75Hz at 1,280 by 1,024; 75Hz at 1,024 by 768; 70Hz at 1,600 by 1,200	Radiant, sharp color; easy-to-use, built-in controls.	Software screen controls require a proprietary connector.	★★★★ Its rich, true colors always impress.
Samsung SyncMaster 21GLs (800) 726-7864 *Reader Service No. 770*	$1,666	21-inch Shadow Mask	0.28	105Hz at 1,024 by 768; 75Hz at 1,280 by 1,024; 68Hz at 1,600 by 1,200	Excellent price; good color.	Images go out of focus at screen edges when colors are at brightest setting.	★★★★ A dream display for the budget-minded.
ViewSonic PT810 (800) 888-8583 *Reader Service No. 771*	$2,195	21-inch DiamondTron	0.30	85Hz at 1,280 by 1,024; 73Hz at 1,600 by 1,200	Top-notch image quality at high resolutions.	Awkward front-panel controls; low refresh rates.	★★★★ This unit is only half a step behind the best.
Apple Multiple Scan 20 (800) 538-9696 *Reader Service No. 772*	$1,719	20-inch Trinitron	0.26	60Hz at 1,024 by 768; 60Hz at 1,280 by 1,024; 60Hz at 800 by 600	Consistent color; solid casing.	Hard-to-use controls; images vibrate at the slightest bump.	★★★ Likable, but you can do better.
IBM P201 (800) 426-2968 *Reader Service No. 773*	$2,109	20-inch Trinitron	0.26	85Hz at 1,024 by 768; 85Hz at 1,280 by 1,024; 85Hz at 1,600 by 1,200	Bright colors; no flicker at ultrahigh resolutions.	Confusing controls; mediocre image quality; homely case design.	★★★ It's too little monitor for the money.
Mag InnoVision MX21F (800) 827-3998 *Reader Service No. 774*	$1,799	21-inch Shadow Mask	0.28	75Hz at 1,024 by 768; 75Hz at 1,280 by 1,024; 60Hz at 1,600 by 1,280	Good price; glare-free.	Clumsy controls; fragile case construction; below-average image quality.	★★★ Slim price but so-so image quality.
Panasonic PanaSync Pro C-2192P (800) 742-8086 *Reader Service No. 775*	$1,999	21-inch Shadow Mask	0.25	101Hz at 1,024 by 768; 77Hz at 1,280 by 1,024; 66Hz at 1,600 by 1,200	Easy controls.	Dull colors; plain design; low refresh rates.	★★★ A capable but basic display.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Smart Buyers' Checklist

Before you shell out $2,000 for a 20- or 21-inch monitor, you'll want to be sure you get your money's worth. Keep an eye out for several features and specifications as you gaze into the pixels. For instance, the type of cathode-ray tube inside matters. Trinitron and DiamondTron tubes tend to produce brighter colors, but Shadow Mask tubes may display sharper text. You'll have to decide which looks best to your eyes. Also check for clean lines and tight focus, especially near the edges of the screen. Colors should appear uniform across the display. And controls should be conveniently located and easy to understand and operate.

Screen Size: Be aware that a monitor's size is determined by the diagonal measurement of its glass tube—not the size of the image that appears onscreen.

Resolution and Scan Rates: Higher resolutions mean crisper images, but be sure the monitor's refresh rate is fast enough to keep pace without flickering (generally 72Hz or higher).

Color and Focus: Hues should be bright and rich, and appear true at medium control settings. Graphics and text should be sharp. Watch out for a loss of focus around the edge of the screen.

Controls: Buttons or dials for adjusting brightness, contrast, and screen placement should be easy to locate and use. A button that restores factory default settings is also helpful.

Construction and Design: Make sure the monitor is sturdy. Image quality shouldn't suffer when the unit is bumped or moved slightly.

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Living **Large**

There's no better sign of these more visual times in personal computing than our prodigious lineup of big screens. There wasn't a bad display in the bunch, but some proved more alluring than others.

Sony's Multiscan 20sfII Trinitron monitor did everything right: It's as bright, sharp, evenly hued, and glare-free as you'll find. And its sophisticated controls, conveniently located at the front of the unit, make fine-tuning your monitor effortless. Mitsubishi's Diamond Pro 21TX and ViewSonic's PT810 DiamondTron monitors were also favorites, with rich color and crisp lines.

Our testers found Eizo Nanao's FlexScan F2-21, with its Shadow Mask tube, sharp and easy on the eyes at any resolution. It has convenient controls and color management, too. NEC's elegantly styled MultiSync XP21 didn't disappoint our testers, either, with a big Shadow Mask tube that rivals the best Trinitrons in bright, true colors and sharpness.

Bargain hunters will want to consider Samsung's SyncMaster 21GLs (also a Shadow Mask monitor), which makes a vivid first impression for under $1,700.

Apple's Multiple Scan 20 and IBM's P201—both 20-inch Trinitron models—are decent choices as well, but each has some problems with image quality and stability. Panasonic's PanaSync Pro C-2192P is a very capable 21-inch monitor, but colors are a bit dull and text isn't very sharp. In addition, its low refresh rate can cause images to flicker at peak resolution (1,600 by 1,200). Mag InnoVision's MX21F has a decent price and some good features, but it could stand some improvements in image quality and overall fragile construction.

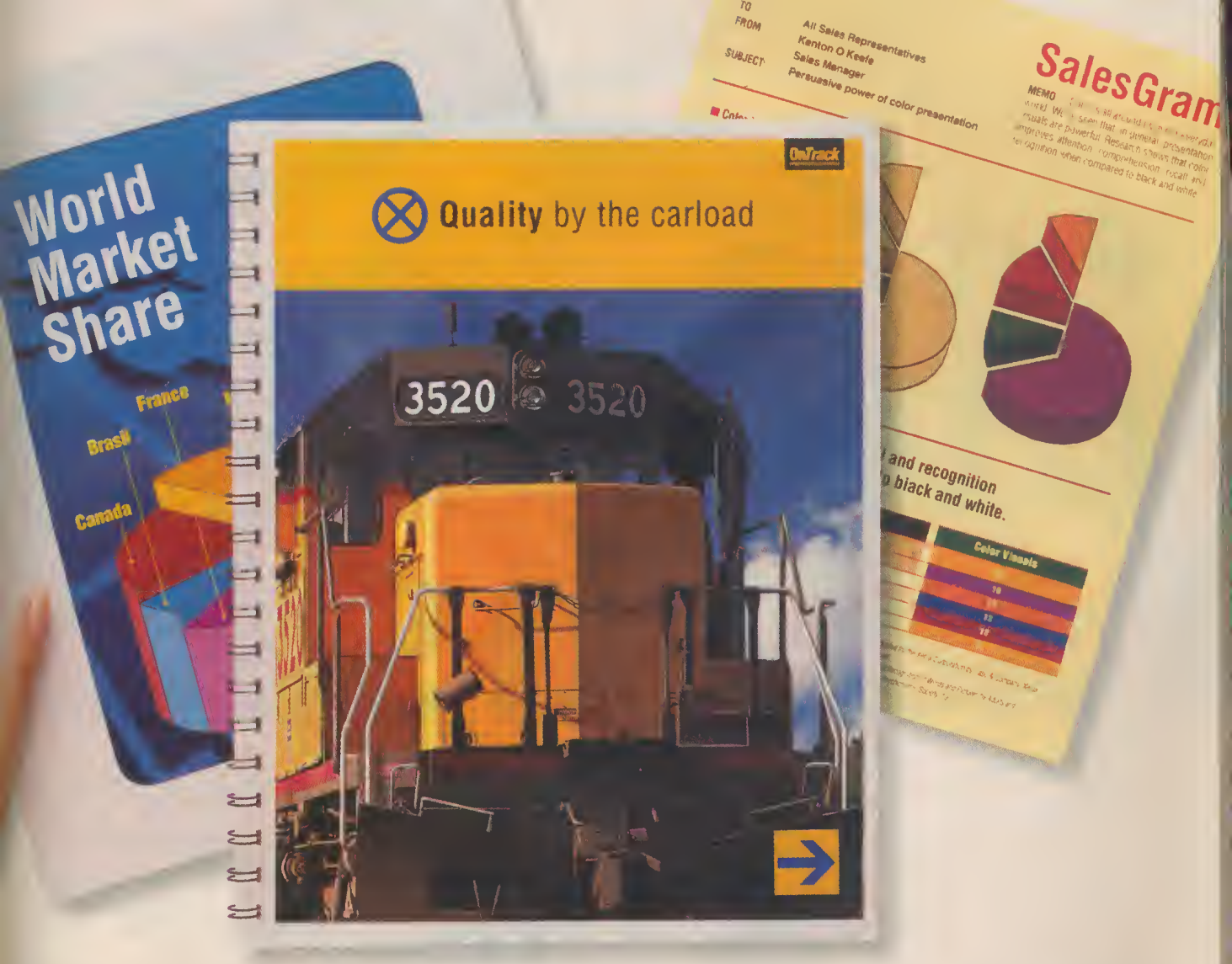
Before you decide on a monitor, be sure you view it through an investment lens. After all, three years from now, your 20- or 21-inch monitor will still be a state-of-the-art display capable of handling virtually anything your video board or multimedia software delivers.

CHRIS O'MALLEY *is a writer who specializes in video and telecommunications.*
Lab testing was performed by IBRAHIM GUL.

DECISION MAKER

CHOOSE THE RIGHT **MONITOR** FOR YOUR NEEDS

1 Choose the factor that's most important.	2 Choose the next most important factor.	3 What else is important?	4 For your needs, the best product to buy is . . .
Image Quality	Price	Controls	Sony Multiscan 20sfII
		Screen Size	Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 21TX
	Features	Controls	Sony Multiscan 20sfII
		Screen Size	NEC MultiSync 21XP
Price	Image Quality	Controls	Samsung SyncMaster 21GLs
		Screen Size	Eizo Nanao FlexScan F2-21
	Features	Controls	Samsung SyncMaster 21GLs
		Screen Size	Samsung SyncMaster 21GLs
Features	Image Quality	Controls	Sony Multiscan 20sfII
		Screen Size	NEC MultiSync 21XP
	Price	Controls	Eizo Nanao FlexScan F2-21
		Screen Size	Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 21TX



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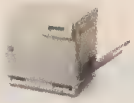
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SYNOPSIS

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CONTACT MANAGERS: *Reach out and touch someone—and remember who and when you did.* **170**

PROJECT MANAGERS: *Keep your projects on time and under budget.* **174**

BUSINESS GRAPHICS: *Draw rings around the competition—even if you're artistically impaired.* **178**

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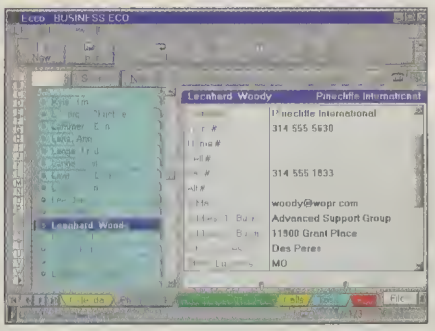
BY WOODY LEONHARD

Assistant in a Box

Lost under a mountain of sticky notes? Then dig yourself out with a good personal information manager. A personal information manager will update your phone book, fetch addresses, and keep track of your appointments. But which organizer is right for you? That depends on how much effort you want to put into it—and what you expect in return.



Personally Yours: Ecco Pro has all the features you could ever want in a PIM.

Ecco Pro 3.0 ★★★★

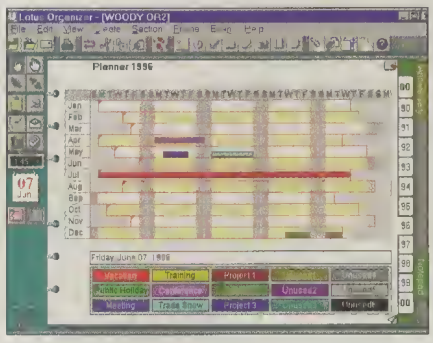
NetManage's Ecco Pro 3.0 is everything you could wish for in a PIM, and then some. Using its floating Shooter icon, you can quickly transfer data between Ecco and any other application. Ecco even takes advantage of your Web browser: Simply select an Internet address in Ecco, click on Tools, Launch Internet, and you're online. Once there, you can move to URLs from within Ecco or store Internet information by clicking on the Shooter icon again. Ecco is the standard by which other PIMs are measured: extensive folder and file synchronization (via a floppy disk, LAN, or e-mail); one-click calendar overlays; e-mail and mailing-list fax-creation ability (for group faxing); time and expense tracking; rules-based filing agents; and dozens of group-aware contact-management features. Just be prepared to endure a fairly steep learning curve to reach its heights.

Ecco Pro 3.0 / NetManage / (206) 885-4272 / $99 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 734*

Organizer 2.1 ★★★★

Lotus's Organizer 2.1 handles all the information management basics—address books, calendars, to-do lists, and call-tracking—with ease and finesse. And although it trails in the features race, Organizer 2.1 offers the cleanest, simplest interface of all the full-featured PIMs. In addition, sophisticated group-scheduling features let you attach files to meeting notices, work with standard Lotus Notes or cc:Mail e-mail, and schedule overlapping appointments (while informing you of conflicts, of course). Organizer is also part of SmartSuite 96 and is the best choice if you want a broad spectrum of features but don't want to make learning your PIM a full-time occupation. Organizer is also an obvious choice for companies that rely on Lotus Notes. That said, however, Organizer could use a Windows 95 face-lift as well as support for drag-and-drop editing between your address book and a word processor.

Organizer 2.1 / Lotus Development Corp. / (800) 343-5414 / $99 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 735*



Keeping Tabs: Lotus's Organizer offers the best interface of the bunch.

Sidekick 95 ★★★★

Less is more. That's the beauty of Starfish Software's Sidekick 95. It's small, simple, and always there when you need it. In fact, Starfish boasts that it spent more time thinking about what to leave out than what to put in. Starfish decided to include a very handy phone book, a versatile calendar (group scheduling will be available by the time you read this), to-do lists with a card-file motif, and lots of printing options. Sidekick 95 Deluxe includes a copy of the Dashboard 95 utility, a multimedia training course, and dozens of Companion card files with helpful information ranging from restaurant lists to sports schedules. If you want a simple but powerful organizer, get Sidekick 95.

Sidekick 95 / Starfish Software / (800) 765-7839 / $50, $80 for Deluxe version, est. street prices / *Reader Service No. 736*

AnyTime 3.0 ★★★

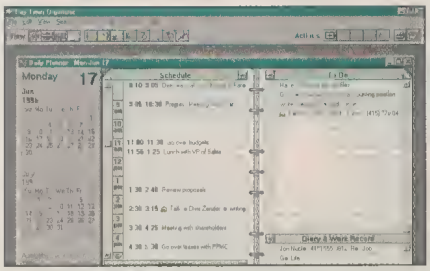
Don't let its $25 price tag fool you: With an uncluttered address book and a calendar that uses drag-and-drop editing, Individual Software's AnyTime 3.0 cuts through the confusion of most PIMs. No, you can't define fields in the address book. Nor can you directly link the address book to your word processor, store e-mail addresses, or track phone calls. But you can import text files; print out Rolodex cards, envelopes, and labels using any of 100 templates; and scan your calendar several ways. AnyTime is a simple, solid alternative if you don't want to spend much time mastering a more sophisticated package.

AnyTime 3.0 / Individual Software / (800) 822-3522 / $25 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 737*

Day-Timer Organizer 2.0 ★★★

Although most PIMs print calendars and contacts for paper organizers, no other PIM goes to such lengths to retain the familiar look and feel of the ubiquitous Day-Timer planner. More than a bare-bones PIM, Day-Timer Organizer 2.0 adds customizable fields to the address book, e-mail support,

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*



Paper or PIM? Day-Timer Organizer looks and acts like a paper planner.

and extensive telephone-management features, including hold, transfer, forward, conference call, speed dial, and Caller ID (if your phone line supports it). Day-Timer Organizer also includes solid group scheduling over most networks, automatic appointment notification, and a basic mail option. If you're comfortable with the layout of your paper Day-Timer and aren't interested in lots of bells and whistles, or if advanced telephone features ring your chimes, Day-Timer Organizer 2.0 should be your top pick.

Day-Timer Organizer 2.0 / Day-Timer Technologies / (800) 225-5005 / $60 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 738*

OnTime Enterprise 3.0 ☆☆

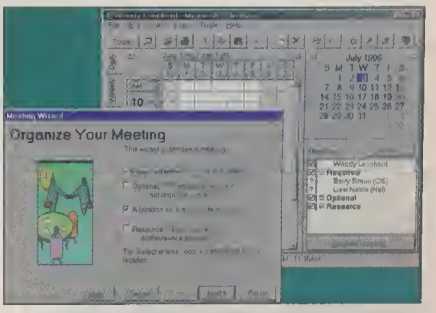
This is less a PIM than a scheduler with a grafted-on phone book—which isn't all bad if you already have a good phone book and simply want a scheduler with close ties to your network. If so, Campbell Services' OnTime Enterprise 3.0 could be for you. Its scheduler provides several calendar views, including day, week, and month. And OnTime updates very quickly because it changes users' calendars from the server instead of relying on e-mail. However, don't expect standard PIM fare such as hookups to other applications, to-do lists, and expense reports.

OnTime Enterprise 3.0 / Campbell Services / (800) 982-0094 / $427 for three users, $994 for ten users, est. street prices / *Reader Service No. 739*

Schedule+ for Windows 95 ☆☆

Once a part of Microsoft's Mail and now included in Microsoft's Office 95 Professional, Schedule+ for Windows 95 is an unsophisticated cousin to its flashier Office mates. But despite its faults, Schedule+ is quite useful. For example, its Wizard-based scheduler, which taps into Microsoft's Exchange e-mail organizer, is easier to use than any other planner on the market. Moreover, it lets you differentiate between required and optional meeting attendees, a feature you won't find in some of the more expensive information managers. Schedule+ has many flaws, however. For example, it has limited views and a stunted phone book that searches by name only. And it's not compatible with Schedule+ 1.0, so you can organize only with colleagues running Windows 95. Still, if you use Office 95 Professional, you may want to try this freebie.

Schedule+ for Windows 95 / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / $99 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 740*



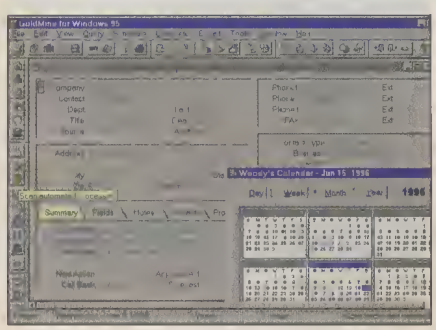
Meeting Magic: Schedule+ guides you through simple planning.

DECISION MAKER — CHOOSE THE RIGHT PIM FOR YOUR NEEDS

1 Choose the factor that's most important.	2 Choose the next most important factor.	3 What else is important?	4 For your needs, the best product to buy is . . .
Usability	Features	Customizability	Lotus Organizer 2.1
		Workgroup Collaboration	Lotus Organizer 2.1
	Price	Customizability	Starfish Sidekick 95
		Workgroup Collaboration	Lotus Organizer 2.1
Features	Usability	Customizability	Lotus Organizer 2.1
		Workgroup Collaboration	Day-Timer Organizer 2.0
	Price	Customizability	Lotus Organizer 2.1
		Workgroup Collaboration	NetManage Ecco Pro 3.0
Price	Usability	Customizability	Starfish Sidekick 95
		Workgroup Collaboration	Lotus Organizer 2.1
	Features	Customizability	Lotus Organizer 2.1
		Workgroup Collaboration	NetManage Ecco Pro 3.0

Don't Miss an Opportunity

The distinction between contact managers and personal information managers is often a fine one. Contact managers differ from information managers more in focus than in features. While personal information managers emphasize your own time and task management, contact managers concentrate on your business obligations and opportunities.



In Sync: GoldMine 95 is the hands-down choice for keeping in touch.

GoldMine 95 ★★★★★

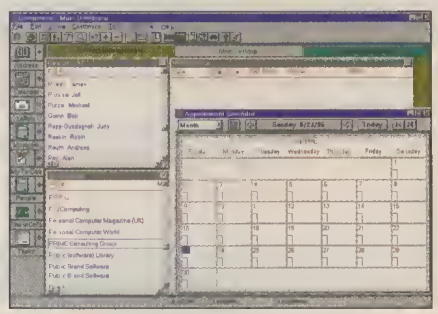
This contact manager knows what it takes to be a team player. For example, if somebody on your contact list sends you e-mail over the Internet, GoldMine 95 identifies the sender and automatically creates a log in its Pending folder. This log is then linked to the sender's record in the contact database. Tabbed contact-database records let you store and organize an enormous amount of information. And GoldMine's unique InfoCenter feature lets you establish a knowledge base of product information, complete with a detailed index that notifies you of updated data. Wizards step you through tough parts, and there's an external program called GoldAlarm that scans for important events even while GoldMine isn't running. Full, automatic synchronization over the Internet makes GoldMine the best choice for headquarter or regional offices, or representatives in the field.

GoldMine 95 / GoldMine Software Corp. / (800) 654-3526 / $199 for one user, $799 for five users, est. street prices / *Reader Service No. 741*

Commence 3.1 ★★★★

Part contact manager, part PIM, and part religion, Commence 3.1 draws zealous converts rather than mere users. And it doesn't disappoint the faithful. Commence is so customizable that it can serve as a full-fledged contact manager for one user while acting as a free-form database for another. In fact, this versatility is both the program's greatest strength and its chief weakness. Exploring and tweaking Commence could easily become a full-time job. Unlike previous versions, Commence 3.1 comes straight out of the box as a first-class, easy-to-use contact manager. The program's networked Agents give it powerful potential, such as the ability to automatically distribute—at a designated time each month—a list of contacts that need following up. The network version synchronizes over a shared LAN directory or e-mail. If Commence presented a sample record while you were setting up fields for importing data, it would be almost perfect.

Commence 3.1 / Commence Corp. / (908) 530-4666 / $130 for one user, $525 for three users, est. street prices / *Reader Service No. 742*



Contacts Your Way: Tweak and customize Commence any way you like.

Metz Phones 5.61 ★★★★

You say you only want an address book? Something that's unobtrusive, free-form, and powerful, yet so simple to use you don't need to think twice about it? You're not alone. Metz Phones 5.61 lets you track up to three addresses and an unlimited amount of phone numbers for each contact. In addition, you can create as many customized fields as you need for each record. Once you categorize your contacts, you can sort, sift, and view them in several ways. Metz Phones works well across all the major networks, with record-level locking and password protection. Above all, it's easy to use. You can schedule phone calls by clicking on two buttons, or you can dial someone with just one click. If you want to look up an address and stick it in a Microsoft Word document, all you do is type Ctrl-Alt-P. Metz Phones delivers all the power most people need, right out of the box.

Metz Phones 5.61 / Metz Software / (800) 447-1712 / $49 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 743*

Act 2.0 ★★★

Few products have defined and controlled a software genre for as long as Symantec's Act. In fact, for years it was the only real choice if you wanted a full-featured contact manager. And it's easy to see why. Act 2.0 presents a simple, inviting interface that tracks files and organizes huge quantities of information. You also get extensive calendar features, good links to word processors (for easily adding addresses from your address book), in-box and out-box e-mail abilities, and tight integration with Delrina's WinFax Pro. There's even a built-in word processor. And for workers on the go, Symantec's MobileLink ($300 street price for up to three users) provides easy file synchronization. While Act lacks many of the advanced workgroup and security features found in its competitors' programs, it's still an excellent choice for individual users. And if your company is

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

"The Best Choice"

...in the uninstaller field. *PC Week, August 7, 1995*

"★★★★"

PC Computing, March 1995

"Most Powerful"

...of all uninstallers. *Family PC, September 1995*

"Best of Class"

InfoWorld, July 24, 1995

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—PC Magazine

"produces terrific video stills... the best we've ever seen"
—Windows Sources

"For the first time, you can get print-quality images from video"
—Camcorder Magazine

Hot Awards!

BEST PERIPHERAL OF THE YEAR — PC MAGAZINE TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

the BEST of EVERYTHING ★★★★★ Computer Life

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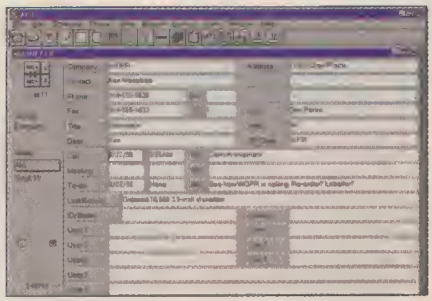


Class Act: Although Act is showing its age, its tracking remains thorough.

a Lotus Notes shop, a Notes-enabled workgroup version called Act for Notes is set to hit store shelves by summer.

Act 2.0 / Symantec / (800) 441-7234 / $199 for one user, $630 for ten users, est. street prices / *Reader Service No. 744*

Contact 95 ☆☆☆

Most contact managers are telephone- and meeting-centric—their power lies in their ability to help you log and track conversations. Janna's Contact 95, however, is document-centric. Use it to organize your letters, spreadsheets, e-mail, and faxes, and to link all correspondence pertaining to a particular person. Despite Contact 95's focus, it's no slouch when it comes to contact-manager features. It lets you log phone calls and set up meetings, and it also has strong ties to Microsoft's Windows 95 and Office 95. For example, with Contact 95 you can log on to Exchange to check your e-mail or use Schedule+ to arrange meetings. On the downside, previous versions had stability problems, and we experienced a few crashes in this release as well. However, if you draft a lot of letters and are accustomed to setting up a new folder (or directory) for each customer, Contact 95's sorting abilities make it a natural pick for you.

Contact 95 / Janna Systems / (800) 268-6107 / $90 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 745*

Action Plus 2.0 ☆☆

Warever's Action Plus 2.0 takes the contact-manager shtick a big step forward by adding all the ancillary features a sales professional needs: order forms, billing and inventory statements, accounts-receivable documents, and correspondence features. Flipping between contact-management mode and, say, an order form is as easy as switching between applications. Unfortunately, Action Plus's basic contact-management features are confusing and hard to find. For example, in the single-user version we had problems with user-unfriendly messages like "Error 3200 Invalid Work Area" and "Error 200 Alias Name Duplicate" when we tried to add a new record to the database. Worse, while the workgroup version has all the basic functions, such as a calendar, it lacks a multiuser scheduling feature—something most people would consider more important than order forms.

Action Plus 2.0 / Warever Corp. / (800) 766-7229 / $295 for one user, $395 for workgroup version with one user, est. street prices / *Reader Service No. 746*

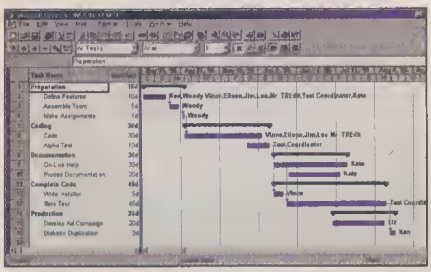
Ultimate Sales Tool: Salespeople will like Action Plus's built-in forms.

DECISION MAKER — CHOOSE THE RIGHT **CONTACT MANAGER** FOR YOUR NEEDS

1 Choose the factor that's most important.	2 Choose the next most important factor.	3 What else is important?	4 For your needs, the best product to buy is . . .
Usability	Features	Customizability	Commence 3.1
		Workgroup Collaboration	GoldMine 95
	Price	Customizability	Metz Phones 5.61
		Workgroup Collaboration	GoldMine 95
Features	Usability	Customizability	Commence 3.1
		Workgroup Collaboration	GoldMine 95
	Price	Customizability	Commence 3.1
		Workgroup Collaboration	GoldMine 95
Price	Usability	Customizability	Metz Phones 5.61
		Workgroup Collaboration	Commence 3.1
	Features	Customizability	Commence 3.1
		Workgroup Collaboration	Commence 3.1

Tools to Keep You on Track

Think project-management packages are difficult to use with their inscrutable jargon, interminable details, and clunky interfaces? Or that they're too New Age with fancy charts, frilly menus, and fatuous content? Say you're not interested in learning another app? Take a look at the new breed of project-management tools, and think again.



Have It All: Microsoft's Project 95 is powerful but easy to use.

Project 95 ★★★★★

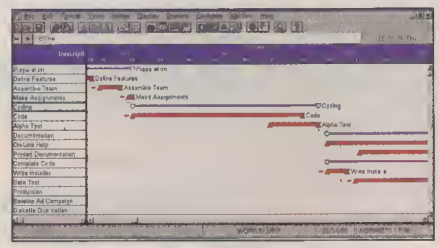
Even if you've never used a project manager, Microsoft's Project 95 will have you up and working in less than an hour. It's an outstanding compromise between power and simplicity. Wizards walk you through tasks every step of the way, teaching you time-management jargon. And talk about convenience: Project 95 tracks a project's progress and automatically e-mails status reports to you with the help of Microsoft's Schedule+ and Exchange. It also uses drag-and-drop editing; right-click, context-sensitive menus; and other Windows 95 improvements that make life easier. If you want to spend your time working on your big project rather than grappling with software, this is your best choice.

Project 95 / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / $470, $150 upgrade, est. street prices / *Reader Service No. 747*

SureTrak Project Manager 1.5 ★★★★

While Primavera's SureTrak Project Manager 1.5 is undeniably more powerful than Microsoft's Project 95, SureTrak is more difficult to learn and use. Even so, several features make SureTrak unique. A wizard helps you set up activity codes to break down sections of a big project, and then consolidate and analyze information. This helps you thoroughly review a project's status and prospects. You can also export SureTrak's pivot tables to Microsoft's Excel, which lets you slice and dice data in many insightful ways. In addition, the Project Group Wizard helps you consolidate projects, and SureTrak's links to both Lotus's cc:Mail and Microsoft's Mail turn status reporting into more of a science than an art. And if your company uses Primavera Project Planner, SureTrak's direct links into that product make it a shoo-in.

SureTrak Project Manager 1.5 / Primavera Systems / (800) 423-0245 / $299, $99 upgrade, est. street prices / *Reader Service No. 748*



Power Plus: SureTrak emphasizes project status, control, and analysis.

Time Line 6.5 ★★★★

What do you get when you strap a $10 joystick onto a $1 million jet engine? In Time Line's case, the result is called Guide Line—a Wizard-like attempt to put a simple interface on an enormously powerful and complex product. Even though Time Line Solutions' Time Line 6.5 includes almost all the features of a megabuck project-manager, its complexity takes a toll. Although Time Line's interface is much less intimidating than that of Computer Associates' CA-SuperProject 4.0, you still have to hunt and peck to find most tools. But if you like reports, you'll love the included Crystal Reports package, which delivers enormous reporting options. Time Line offers the most features of the reasonably priced project managers, but you need to invest considerable time and effort to take advantage of these features.

Time Line 6.5 / Time Line Solutions / (800) 222-8572 / $450 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 749*

CA-SuperProject 4.0 ★★★

Computer Associates' versatile and powerful CA-SuperProject 4.0 takes a traditional approach to project management. You can view each project by task, resource, date, or account. And the user interface, while clumsy and intimidating for nonprofessionals, has a configurable toolbar, a spell-checker, and multiple levels of undo. You can also define custom fields, configure more than one baseline for "what-if" analyses, and combine projects to get an overview of available resources. There's a bundled application, TimeSlips TimeSheet Professional, which ties into CA-SuperProject and makes it easy to track actual time and expenses. All in all, if you need the full power of a heavy-duty project manager with an integrated time-tracking system this is your product. Just be prepared to brave a steep learning curve.

CA-SuperProject 4.0 / Computer Associates Int'l / (800) 225-5224 / $479, $149 upgrade, est. street prices / *Reader Service No. 750*

GroupWorks 2.0 ★★★

A lightweight project manager with state-of-the-art workgroup abilities, such as linking Web pages to a project, FTP Software's GroupWorks 2.0 is best for small projects that need to be updated or viewed by several people on a network. For example, its annotation feature lets group members comment on schedules. The

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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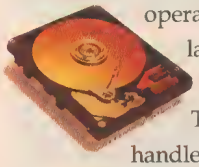

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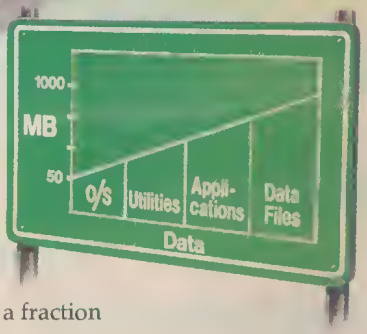

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Cabo 1276	1.27 GB	Fast ATA-2	16.6 MB/s	12.5ms	4,500 RPM
Cabo 1621	1.62 GB	Fast ATA-2	16.6 MB/s	14.0ms	3,600 RPM
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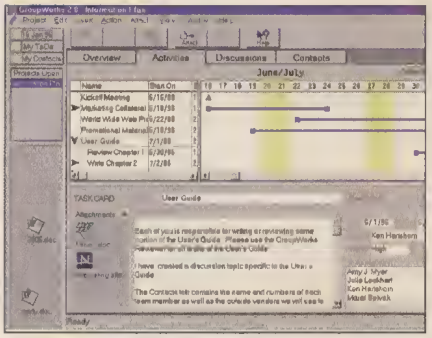


Peer-to-Peer Projects: GroupWorks is best for teams working on a project.

remarks are stored in a separate layer, leaving the original document untouched. GroupWorks shows project status in four different areas: Overview, Activities, Discussions, and Contacts. While GroupWorks' terminology is similar to that in CA-SuperProject, the emphasis is totally different. GroupWorks mixes limited project management with group scheduling and contact features—the perfect combination for small groups working together to stay on top of a project.

GroupWorks 2.0 / FTP Software / (800) 282-4387 / $299 list price / *Reader Service No. 751*

ManagePro 3.1 ☆☆☆

Avantos's ManagePro 3.1 looks and acts like a personal information manger, with a focus on project management. You don't need to understand PERT charts or critical-path analyses to put ManagePro to work. Instead, you'll find yourself exposed to goals, people, and actions. For example, ManagePro's informative red-light/green-light warning system, in its People view, shows you who's falling behind and who's not. Click on another button, and you get a synopsis of an employee's completion rates—handy at review time. This is a limited but useful product for keeping a group focused on the tasks at hand.

ManagePro 3.1 / Avantos Performance Systems / (800) 282-6867 / $199 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 752*

Milestones, Etc. 4.5 ☆☆☆

Think of Kidasa's Milestones, Etc. 4.5 as a slick chart-generating tool attached to a so-so project manager. You wouldn't want to manage a large project with Milestones' limited features, but if you're interested in mapping out a project's progress—or if you're working with people who don't have the interest, patience, or aptitude for project esoterics—Milestones is a good choice. Its SmartColumns works like the IntelliSense feature found in Microsoft's Office. SmartColumns tries to guess your next action, such as adding an annotation. The Toolbox gives you more options for generating fancy charts than most people will ever use. And you can easily embed the charts into word-processing documents or spreadsheets. It's a great way to create snapshots of a project in progress.

Milestones, Etc. 4.5 / Kidasa Software / (800) 765-0167 / $169 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 753*

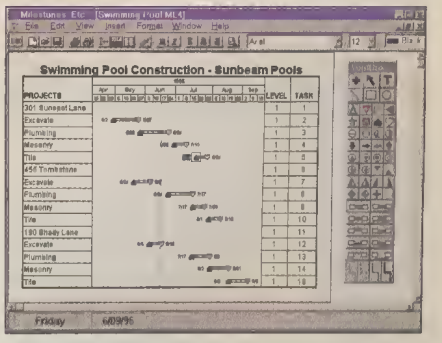


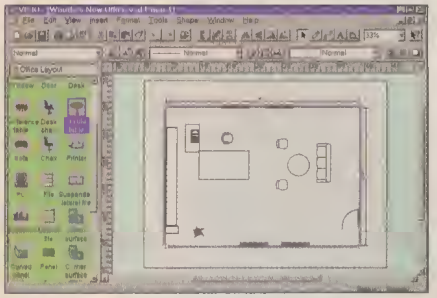
Chart Crazy: Milestones, Etc., helps you design fancy progress charts.

DECISION MAKER — CHOOSE THE RIGHT PROJECT MANAGER FOR YOUR NEEDS

1 Choose the factor that's most important.	2 Choose the next most important factor.	3 What else is important?	4 For your needs, the best product to buy is . . .
Usability	Features	Workgroup Collaboration	Microsoft Project 95
		Reports	Microsoft Project 95
	Price	Workgroup Collaboration	Microsoft Project 95
		Reports	Microsoft Project 95
Features	Usability	Workgroup Collaboration	Primavera SureTrak 1.5
		Reports	Microsoft Project 95
	Price	Workgroup Collaboration	Primavera SureTrak 1.5
		Reports	Time Line Solutions Time Line 6.5
Price	Usability	Workgroup Collaboration	FTP GroupWorks 2.0
		Reports	Kidasa Milestones, Etc. 4.5
	Features	Workgroup Collaboration	Primavera SureTrak 1.5
		Reports	Kidasa Milestones, Etc. 4.5

Ready, Set, Draw!

For most people, designing a hasty but usable organization graph, chart, or floor plan is just about as easy as calculating a geosynchronous orbit trajectory or performing a prefrontal lobotomy. Luckily, the latest variety of business-graphics packages contain tools that help turn art failures into graphics, charting, or drawing experts.



Drag and Draw: Visio makes drawing as easy as drag and drop.

Visio 4.0 ★★★★★

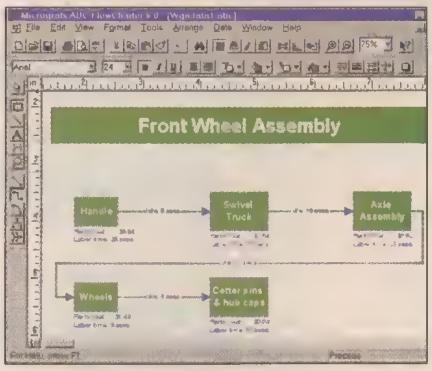
This package just keeps getting better. Visio was the first to introduce drag-and-drop diagrams, and its latest version, Visio 4.0, includes new wizards for office layouts, flowcharts, organization charts, and project time lines. Usability enhancements include the ability to embed Visio diagrams in Microsoft Word documents and Excel spreadsheets with a single click; support for Microsoft's Office 95 Binders to create documents with multiple diagram and file formats; a diagram preview option to view files before opening them; desktop "scrap" files, which let you reuse partial or complete diagrams later; shape collections that dock on your screen like toolbars; and easy object manipulation via the right mouse-button. While other products may beat Visio in one or two areas, taken as a whole, Visio is the best all-around diagram-drawing program. It's a must-have for any Windows 95 user who wants to draw but doesn't have the artistic know-how.

Visio 4.0 / Visio Corp. / (800) 446-3335 / $130 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 754*

ABC FlowCharter 6.0 ★★★★

Windows graphics pioneer Micrografx has scored again with ABC FlowCharter 6.0, a tool for producing flowcharts, organization charts, schematics, and the like. Simply drag any of the more than 2,000 supplied shapes from ABC FlowCharter's palette onto your drawing, and the shapes connect themselves. Lines automatically hop over each other when they cross, text rotates into the proper position, clip art easily converts into usable shapes, and diagrams are easily linked to data in spreadsheets. You can add FlowCharter to the application toolbar in Microsoft's Office 95, and even link it to the Office Binder. ABC FlowCharter is available only as part of ABC Graphics Suite, which also includes Designer, a top-notch free-form drawing package; Picture Publisher, a powerful image editor; and a huge clip-art collection. It's quite an artful deal for any Windows 95 user.

ABC FlowCharter 6.0 (available only as part of ABC Graphics Suite) / Micrografx / (800) 676-3110 / $299 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 755*



Smart Art: ABC FlowCharter is especially good at creating diagrams.

CorelFlow 3 ★★★★

Another excellent choice for drag-and-drop drawing is CorelFlow 3. With an interface that's familiar to anyone who's used the company's flagship, CorelDraw, CorelFlow produces great output. Some of its unique features include fountain fill, repeated connecting patterns (attaching shapes with road patterns or signs instead of plain lines to liven up your chart), and shadowing options to enhance the 3-D appearance of your drawing. The wizards for calendars, family trees, organization charts, and time lines are particularly impressive. CorelFlow's connections to Microsoft's Office 95 stop at letting you add a CorelFlow button to the toolbar in Microsoft's Word. And we had some trouble using CorelFlow to insert a drawing into a Word document. However, if you're already accustomed to the CorelDraw interface and want to produce exquisite output, this is the drawing package to choose.

CorelFlow 3 / Corel Corp. / (800) 772-6735 / $140 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 756*

Harvard ChartXL 2.0 ★★★★

When you outgrow your spreadsheet's ability to create graphs, it's time to call in the big guns—and Software Publishing's Harvard ChartXL 2.0 is the biggest gun of all. Use it to choose, move, and rotate more than 300 chart types. The chart types include some 3-D effects like variable light sources, which let you adjust the direction and depth of shadows. Harvard ChartXL doesn't stop at pretty pictures, though. Its visual data-analysis tools help you understand the data and its underlying meaning. And every piece of each chart is customizable, right down to the thickness of the axes' tick marks. Best of all, the Chart Gallery Advisor delivers precise and accurate advice on when to use what type of chart. But don't rely on Harvard ChartXL to manipulate your data—leave that to Corel's Quattro Pro, Lotus's 1-2-3, or Microsoft's Excel. Crunch the numbers,

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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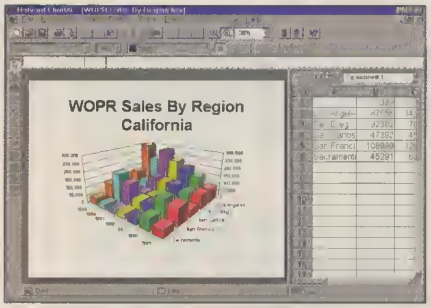


Ivy League Graphs: Creating 3-D charts is a snap with Harvard ChartXL.

then bring up Harvard ChartXL's breathtaking array of tools with just a click of your mouse.

Harvard ChartXL 2.0 / Software Publishing Corp. / (800) 336-8360 / $149 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 757*

Org Plus 3.0 ★★★

If you just want to create organization charts and don't need any other drawing tools, Broderbund's Org Plus 3.0 is the package for you. With a huge variety of box types and effects—including the ability to place scanned photos in the boxes—Org Plus does organizational charts from *A* to *Z*. Using the Show/Hide feature, you can store potentially sensitive data in the chart without printing it. And Org Plus can even calculate attached numbers, such as maximum salaries for employees, in a particular branch of the chart. In addition, versatile find-and-replace functions work with Boolean search strings, and the Fit to Pages feature makes charts fit into the number of pages you specify. You can also embed charts directly in word-processing documents or Microsoft PowerPoint slides. For building quick and easy organization charts, Org Plus is a fine tool. If you'll also need drawing tools, however, Visio is a better buy.

Org Plus 3.0 / Broderbund / (800) 474-8696 / $140 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 758*

Stanford Graphics 3.0 ★★★

Visual Numerics' Stanford Graphics and Harvard ChartXL both started with the same core programs. At the risk of inciting school rivalries, Software Publishing bought the core code from Visual Numerics and put considerable effort into turning ChartXL into a more user-friendly package. Visual Numerics, meanwhile, stuck with a Spartan interface, adding sophisticated tools for managing data and statistical analyses in Stanford Graphics. Version 3.0 has a freely distributable slide-show program that generates speaker and handout notes. There's even a version especially tuned for Windows NT running on the Digital Alpha processor. If you prefer to do your number crunching inside your graph package, Stanford Graphics is the better choice for you. For most people, though, Harvard ChartXL and a good spreadsheet offer a better alternative.

Stanford Graphics 3.0 / Visual Numerics / (800) 729-4723 / $100 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 759*

Charts and More: Stanford Graphics includes slide shows and slick graphs.

DECISION MAKER

CHOOSE THE RIGHT **BUSINESS-GRAPHICS PACKAGE** FOR YOUR NEEDS

1 What do you need to create the most?	2 What else do you need to create?	3 What else is important?	4 For your needs, the best product to buy is . . .
Organization Chart/ Flowchart	Graphs	Usability	Visio 4.0
		Features	Micrografx ABC FlowCharter 6.0
	Floor Plans/ Advanced Graphics	Usability	Visio 4.0
		Features	CorelFlow 3
Graphs	Organization Chart/Flowchart	Usability	Harvard ChartXL 2.0
		Features	Harvard ChartXL 2.0
	Floor Plans/ Advanced Graphics	Usability	Harvard ChartXL 2.0
		Features	Visual Numerics Stanford Graphics
Floor Plans/ Advanced Graphics	Organization Chart/Flowchart	Usability	Visio 4.0
		Features	Visio 4.0
	Graphs	Usability	Visio 4.0
		Features	Visio 4.0

Bulletproof Storage

Hard drives die, but RAID keeps your business alive

The monster disk in your server just went down screaming. All of today's work hit the bit bucket. Restoring the data will take hours, and every minute of downtime is costing you a fortune. Too bad you didn't shield yourself from this disaster.

No storage system is completely invulnerable, but a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) comes close. And with hard drive prices plunging to all-time lows, a top-notch RAID setup may well be within your reach. So if your company lives and dies by its data, it's time to get a RAID system.

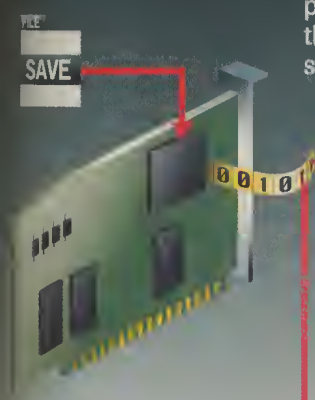
RAID Raves: DEC's RA 230 offers solid performance and features, making it your safest bet for crucial data.

The most basic RAID array is a set of hard drives chained together—RAID Level 1 simply mirrors data on duplicate drives. While this is a very safe storage technique, it's not particularly cost-effective because you have to buy twice the storage you need. RAID Level 5 requires only one

BY JACK LYON

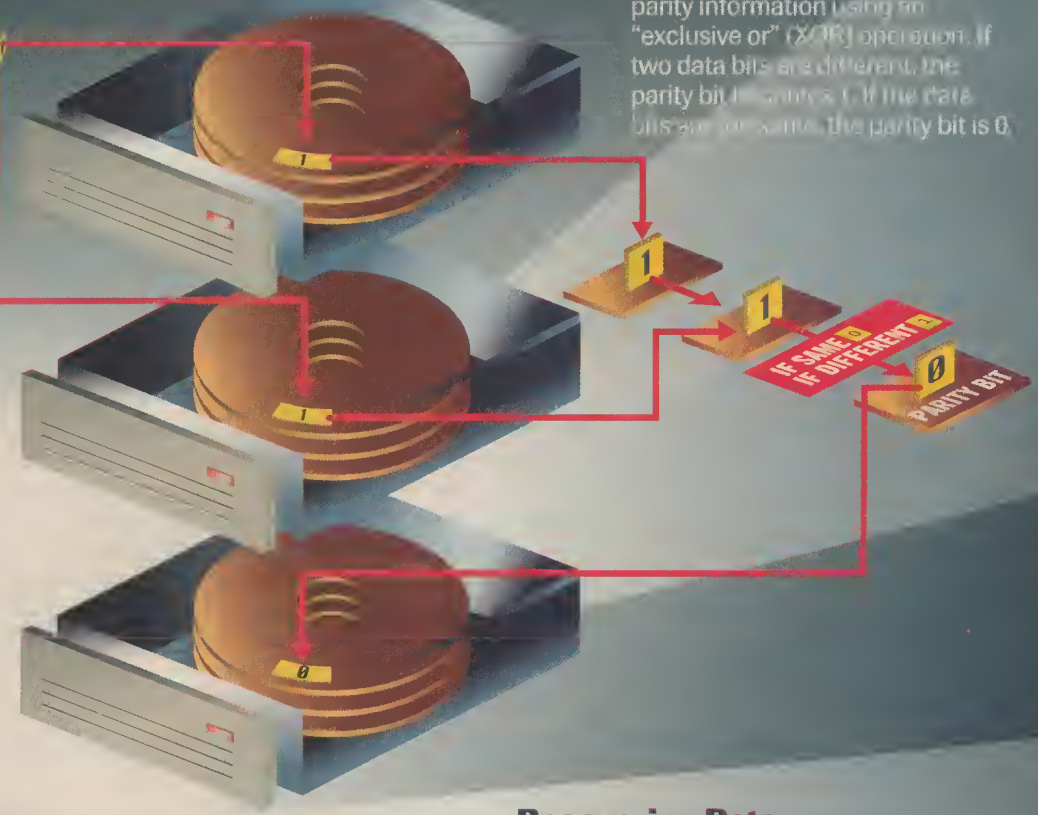
Writing Data

The operating system requests permission to write data to a disk and then passes that data to the drive subsystem.



Assigning Parity

The RAID/SCSI controller breaks the data into pieces and assigns parity information using an "exclusive or" (XOR) operation. If two data bits are different, the parity bit becomes 1. If the data bits are the same, the parity bit is 0.

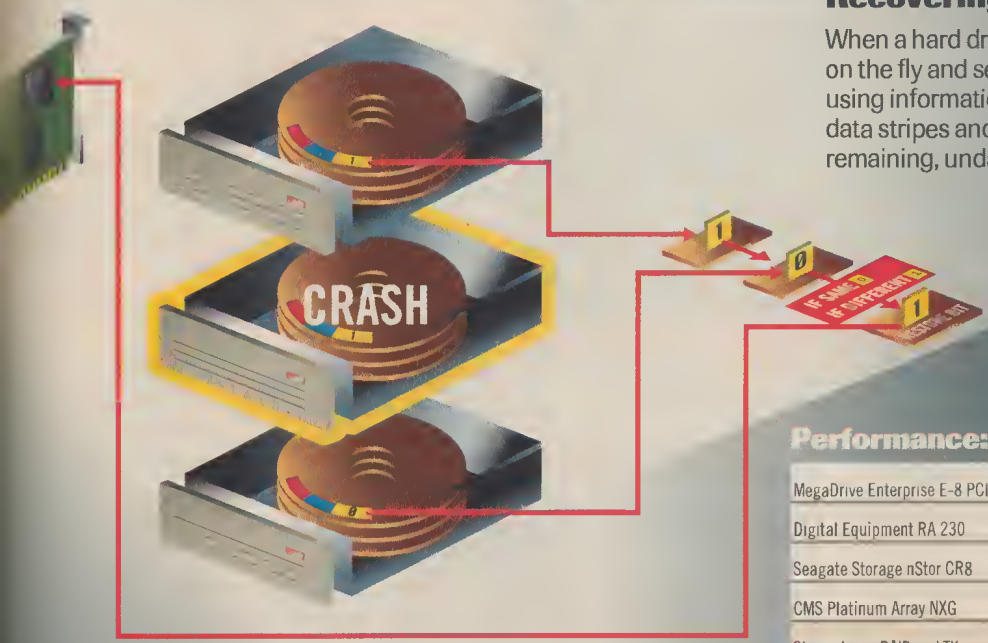


Sequential Striping

The data pieces and parity information are then spread, or "striped," sequentially across all the drives in the set. For RAID Level 5, the array must contain at least three disks.

Recovering Data

When a hard drive fails, its data is rebuilt on the fly and sent to the computer using information stored in undamaged data stripes and parity stripes on the remaining, undamaged drives.



Performance: RAID 5 Storage

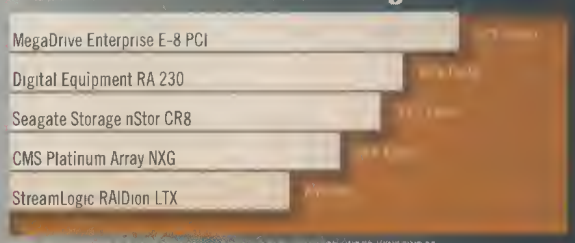


ILLUSTRATION BY TIMOTHY EDWARD DOWNS / PHOTOGRAPH BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

extra drive to provide near-complete security by breaking data into pieces and spreading the bits across an array of three or more disks (see page 183). If one drive goes down, the controller instantly reconstructs the lost data and either sends it directly to a system or rebuilds it on a spare drive. RAID Level 5 gives you more storage for less money while keeping your business's data safe and eliminating downtime.

We looked at five RAID Level 5 systems: Digital Equipment's RA 230, MegaDrive Systems' Enterprise E-8 PCI, StreamLogic's RAIDion LTX, CMS Enhancements' Platinum Array NXG, and Seagate Storage Systems' nStor CR8. For our tests, each array was required to be Windows NT–compatible and hook up with a Fast SCSI-2 connector. All of these RAID systems proved nearly unstoppable, thanks to their redundant power supplies and hot-swappable drives. The winners combined solid performance with outstanding features.

Even though Digital Equipment's RA 230 was limited by a meager 4MB of RAM cache on its Mylex controller card, it posted second-place numbers in our performance tests. Then it won usability points because of its StorageWorks RAID utilities, which let you monitor the status of the array, check and repair parity, and receive failure alerts. And although the hot-swappable drives were difficult to remove, we liked the system's rack-mounting option. You can get this overall winner for around $8,000 street price.

MegaDrive Systems' Enterprise E-8 PCI was tops in performance with its 32MB of RAM cache, so its $8,800 street price will set you back more than the RA 230 will. But that extra investment buys you flexibility. The E-8 can house everything from hard disks to high-speed 40GB Digital Linear Tapes. The array also includes a 4GB DAT drive for extra security. And you can extend the E-8's 36GB capacity by daisy-chaining as many as four E-8 systems, for a total of 144GB.

Although it was slower than the others, StreamLogic's RAIDion LTX exhibits some outstanding qualities. Penny-pinchers will like the RAIDion's $7,235 street price. The system's integrated controller provides effortless setup and independence from any operating system. And the LCD panel informs you of array status. The RAIDion supports as many as 28 4.3GB drives, bringing its top capacity up to a hefty 120.4GB. This is the drive to get if low price and simplicity are more important to you than overall performance.

Seagate Storage Systems' nStor CR8 offers an outstanding level of control for system alerts and maintenance, thanks to its LCD panel and the included software utilities. Be prepared to pay almost $10,000 for these features, though.

CMS Enhancements' Platinum Array NXG isn't a speed demon, but setup is easy with its integrated RAID controller, which frees the unit from operating-system chains. This lets it hook up to practically anything with a SCSI port. An optional data board also lets you link as many as 35 Platinum Arrays into a single 1,200GB monstrosity. Unfortunately, the Platinum Array doesn't include software utilities, an oversight that complicates control and monitoring. Overall, the Platinum Array's high street price ($8,980) and lack of control features make it a follower, not a leader.

Top RAID Drives

Product	Price*	Configuration Tested	Operating Systems	Controller Card	Drives Installed	Supports Multiple Media Types	RAID Software	Verdict
PC Computing BEST **Digital Equipment RA 230** (800) 786-7967 *Reader Service No. 727*	$8,000	Six 2.1GB Digital RZ28D-VW drives, 4MB cache	Windows NT, NetWare	Mylex's Backplane RAID Controller	Digital's StorageWorks drives	Yes	Digital's StorageWorks utilities	★★★★★ Excellent control; fast and affordable.
MegaDrive Enterprise E-8 PCI, (800) 664-6342 *Reader Service No. 728*	$8,800	Six 2.1GB Seagate 42050 drives, 32MB cache	Windows NT, NetWare	Mylex's DAC 960PD	Seagate (various models)	Yes	Mylex's utilities	★★★★ Fast, flexible, and easy to use.
StreamLogic RAIDion LTX (800) 585-5888 *Reader Service No. 729*	$7,235	Four 4.3GB Micropolis 3243 drives, 8MB cache	Windows 95, Windows NT, Mac, Solaris	StreamLogic's Gandiva	Micropolis	No	StreamLogic's utilities	★★★★ Cheap, expandable, and very easy to use.
CMS Platinum Array NXG (800) 327-5773 *Reader Service No. 730*	$8,980	Five 2.2GB Seagate CRX-4000D drives, 4MB cache	Windows 95, Windows NT, Mac, Solaris	Mylex's DAC 960S	Seagate (various models)	Yes	None (drivers only)	★★★ Easy to set up but difficult to control.
Seagate Storage nStor CR8 (800) 724-3511 *Reader Service No. 731*	$9,735	Four 4GB Seagate CRX-4000D drives, 4MB cache	Windows NT, NetWare, OS/2, Unix	Mylex's DAC 960P	Seagate CRX-4000D	No	Seagate's StorView, Alert Manager	★★★ Slightly overpriced but dependable.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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Alas, Delrina developers still haven't figured out how to fax into someone's brain after 11 P.M. (when rates are lower) without waking him or her up. Fortunately, their latest release – new Delrina WinFax™ PRO 7.0 – is as easy and powerful as one would expect from the best-selling, most award-winning fax software in the world. It fully exploits new Windows® 95's 32-bit multi-tasking, multi-threading talents for true background faxing, greater speed and more. But it doesn't stop there. With the new TalkWorks™ telephony option and your voice modem, WinFax PRO 7.0 turns your computer into an integrated in-box for faxes, e-mail and voice mail. It even takes phone messages, distinguishes between fax and voice calls, has fax on demand and identifies callers before you pick up. And there's more. Built-in compression cuts fax transmission time (and phone bills) by up to one-third. It now supports gray-scale faxing, integrates with Microsoft® Exchange, and includes OCR, 101 ready-to-use fax cover sheets and tools to design your own. You can even get WinFax PRO as part of new Delrina CommSuite™ 95, the complete, affordable, integrated communications software solution for Windows 95. All of which should suffice until the new alpha wave faxing program is ready. (Hmm. Perhaps if we *partition* your brain so that one half can receive faxes while the other remains undisturbed...)

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Ramp Up to RAID

If you need indestructible storage that doesn't cost a fortune, RAID Level 5 is your best bet. But be careful how you choose. Consider performance, especially if you'll have several client machines beating up your disks with simultaneous requests. You should also look for quality tools that keep your array in top form. This combination of precise control and outstanding performance put Digital Equipment's RA 230 at the top of our list. The included StorageWorks utilities let you keep a close eye on your drives. Despite the RA 230's small cache, it came in close behind MegaDrive Systems' top-speed Enterprise E-8 PCI in our performance tests. At $8,000, the RA 230 is your best value.

The E-8 was the speedster of the group (mainly because of its 32MB cache), but it offers more than hot performance. The E-8, like the RA 230, supports a variety of media types and is easy to set up. However, its lack of sophisticated utilities knocked the E-8 out of the top spot. The E-8 is also more expensive, with an $8,800 street price. But even with these shortcomings, the E-8's versatility and speed keep it in the running.

If you're looking for a bargain, check out StreamLogic's RAIDion LTX. Its middling performance won't awe you, but the RAIDion's top-notch LCD panel and integrated RAID controller made it incredibly simple to set up and use.

Without a doubt, a RAID array is worth the price to any business that needs bulletproof data storage. But RAID is not a replacement for daily backups. Even the best RAID Level 5 system will fail if two drives die at once—a definite possibility during an earthquake, fire, or flood. You should also consider using drives from various manufacturers if your array supports them. Buying several identical drives from a single producer could be trouble if that particular batch of disks suffers from a manufacturing defect. Finally, always remember to have a spare hard drive on hand, in case you need to make a quick switch. If all this sounds like overkill, just remember: It's your data and business that's on the line.

Lab testing was performed by IBRAHIM GUL.

DECISION MAKER

CHOOSE THE RIGHT **RAID SYSTEM** FOR YOUR NEEDS

1 Choose the factor that's most important.	2 Choose the next most important factor.	3 What else is important?	4 For your needs, the best product is . . .
Price	Performance	Usability	Digital Equipment RA 230
		Control	Digital Equipment RA 230
	Capacity	Usability	StreamLogic RAIDion LTX
		Control	StreamLogic RAIDion LTX
Performance	Price	Usability	Digital Equipment RA 230
		Control	Digital Equipment RA 230
	Capacity	Usability	MegaDrive Enterprise E-8 PCI
		Control	MegaDrive Enterprise E-8 PCI
Capacity	Price	Usability	StreamLogic RAIDion LTX
		Control	StreamLogic RAIDion LTX
	Performance	Usability	MegaDrive Enterprise E-8 PCI
		Control	MegaDrive Enterprise E-8 PCI

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Stanford Diehl, **BYTE Magazine**, October 1995

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In This Issue:

- ClarisWorks 4.0
- Fractal Design Poser
- Navigator for the WSJ
- JASC Paint Shop Pro
- Capsoft HotDocs
- KPT's Power Photos
- Novell PerfectWorks 3
- Ashlar DrawingBoard
- KnowledgePoint Performance Now
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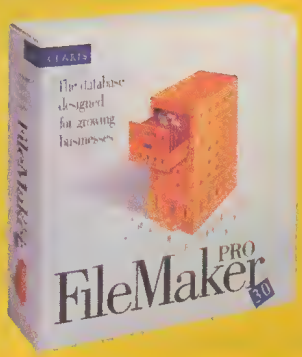

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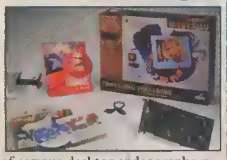

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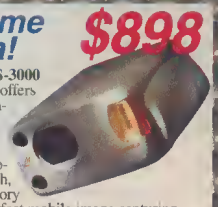

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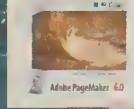

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Dell's featured computer artist is Marco Marinucci of San Francisco, CA.

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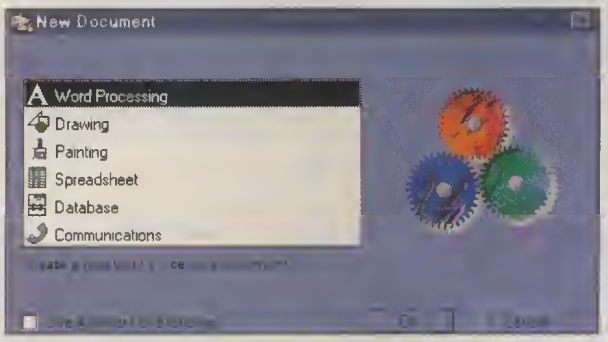
 More reviews on page 204

BUSINESS APPLICATION SUITE

ClarisWorks 4.0

Microsoft's Office is a terrific suite of business applications, but the truth is, many people simply don't need all it has to offer. An alternative? ClarisWorks 4.0, which provides plenty of power for a low price. And it doesn't require much memory or hard drive space. Even better, the most recent version has been optimized for improved performance under Windows 95.

ClarisWorks comes with all the basic productivity apps: a word processor, a spreadsheet, a database, and a drawing program. Just pick a module and go. Want to start a database or create a newsletter? ClarisWorks' Assistants step you through the entire process.



The only real shortcoming of ClarisWorks is that it has no built-in communications program—surprising when you consider that it includes an HTML editor for creating Web documents. Instead it links to HyperTerminal, a limited communications applet in Windows 95.

ClarisWorks is a good choice for first-time buyers. However, if you want a scaled-down alternative to Microsoft's Office, ClarisWorks is not the best choice. The interface is unfamiliar—you're better off with Microsoft's Works. And if you need an application suite that also offers communications, you're better served by Novell's PerfectWorks (see "PerfectWorks 3," page 220), which includes a Web browser and adds a personal-finance manager to the mix. But if you're a new user looking for a solid yet trim Windows 95 application suite, ClarisWorks 4.0 is a good, affordable buy.

JACK LYON

FILEBOX

ClarisWorks 4.0

Pros: A capable collection of Windows 95 productivity apps.

Cons: The File menus aren't the same across modules; no built-in communications option included.

Verdict: A word processor, spreadsheet, database, and drawing program in one.

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GRAPHICS SOFTWARE

Poser for Windows

How do you incorporate human figures in your designs when your drawing skills are limited to stick-figure sketches? Easy. Pick up Fractal Design's Poser for Windows. An electronic version of the wooden artist's dummy, Poser lets anybody create flexible, lifelike 3-D mannequins, pose them in action, and incorporate them into drawings, Web pages, or other PC graphics.

Poser presents you with the outline of a male figure with its arms out at its side. The mannequin's joints mimic the system of joints in the human body: Tug on one of the mannequin's arms with your mouse pointer, and the figure's arm follows; pull an arm below the waist, and the figure bends at the torso.

You can also scale your model's height according to physical development, from a perfectly proportioned infant to a full-grown adult. You can also make the mannequin female or view it from any angle. Poser's mannequins have only 17 adjustable parts, so you can't control individual fingers and toes.

Once you've posed and shaped your figure in preview mode, render it in 3-D. Choose a skin color and add details including muscle contour and a light source. You can save your figure as a TIFF, BMP, DXF, or RIB file, and import it into a 2-D drawing or 3-D modeling program. Want to add a little personality to your graphics? Put Poser on your palette.

WENDY TAYLOR

FILEBOX

Poser for Windows

Pros: Incredibly easy to use.

Cons: Figures you create are still just mannequins—Poser can't add facial expressions or subtle hand gestures.

Verdict: The fastest way to create lifelike renderings of the human form.

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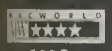
1996


1996

1996

"We like MiniCad for its ease of use, together with the quality of product we can produce with it. I have some experience with AutoCAD™ and I find MiniCad so much easier. Choosing MiniCad was a big plus."

Monty Anderson
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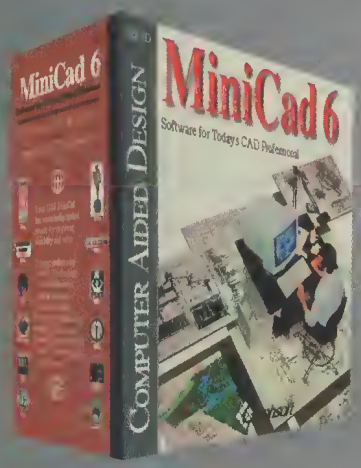

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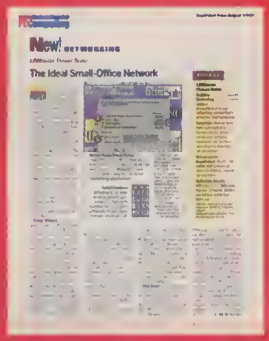

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 More reviews on page 212

WEB BROWSER

Navigator for the WSJ

Looking for one-stop online business news? If you don't have a Web browser and an Internet service provider, try Netscape's Navigator for the Wall Street Journal. For just $39, this tailored version of Navigator merges Web browsing with business news.

Navigator for the WSJ offers everything a business user needs to get started on the Web: a custom copy of Netscape's Web browser; a service offer from NetCom, one of the largest national Internet service providers; and direct links to the *Wall Street Journal*'s Money & Investing Update Web site. NetCom's Internet-access charges start at a reasonable $19.95 per month, and the company offers local-access numbers in most metropolitan areas.

Of course, if you already have a Web browser and an Internet service provider, skip Navigator for the WSJ. The same content, including the Money & Investing Update site, is available free at interactive.wsj.com. This site contains everything the paper edition of the *Wall Street Journal* offers and includes regularly updated coverage of business and market news.

If you're not on the Web, Navigator for the WSJ is a great way to get started. If you have a browser and Internet access, however, you can tap into everything this browser has to offer without the added expense. RICH SCHWERIN

FILEBOX

Netscape's Navigator for the Wall Street Journal

Pros: Complete Web browsing with a business twist.

Cons: It's the same content you can grab with any browser.

Verdict: A smart buy only if you don't have a browser and service provider.

$39 est. street price
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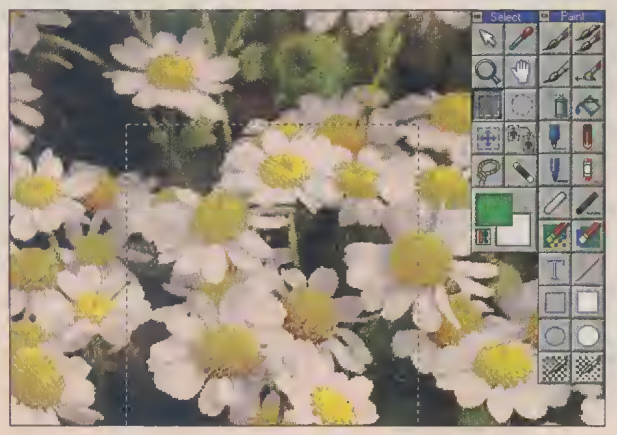
GRAPHICS SOFTWARE

Paint Shop Pro 3.12

What's the difference between a $70 image-editing application and a $700 graphics package? Plenty. But home users never touch most of the bells and whistles attached to a professional package. If you need graphics software that falls somewhere between Adobe's Photoshop and Microsoft's Paint, JASC's Paint Shop Pro 3.12 may work for you.

The first two versions of Paint Shop Pro were limited—they could apply only filters or color schemes to images. The latest version of Paint Shop Pro is a true pixel editor, though a basic one. In the Paint toolbar there are 20 tools, which apply color, shape, sharpness, or free-form designs to your images. The Select toolbar has ten options, most of which are fairly standard for image-editing applications such as zoom, cut, and copy.



Paint Shop Pro includes a library of 30 images, or you can scan your own. You can also flip, size, colorize, or apply filters to images, but advanced built-in features are limited. Paint Shop Pro doesn't have Fractal Design Painter 4.0's Web integration or Photoshop's special-effects filters. But it doesn't carry a hefty price tag, either. If your image-editing jobs never extend beyond a dab of color here and some shading there, Paint Shop Pro is worth a look. JULIE McCULLOUGH

FILEBOX

Paint Shop Pro 3.12

Pros: It's fast, reasonably priced, and supports all major file formats.

Cons: More powerful than Microsoft's Paint, but it's still limited to the basics.

Verdict: This is your best choice for no-frills, low-cost image editing.

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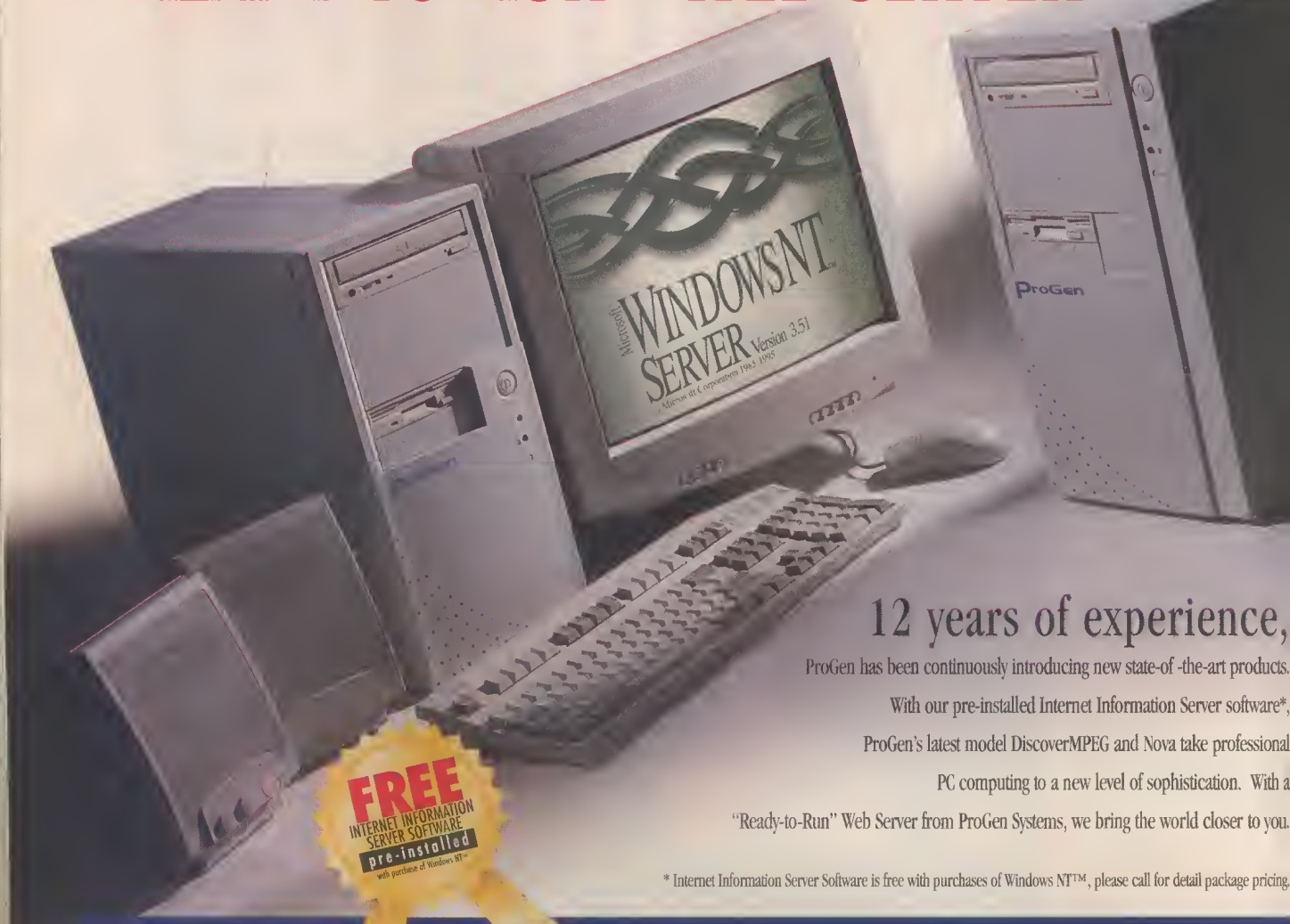

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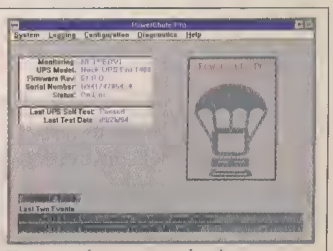

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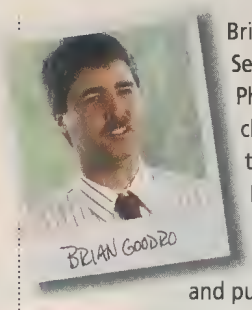
Because unlike your local phonebook, Select Phone lets you drill down through *every published listing* in the U.S. So you can look up all 100 million listings any way you want. By name, street address, city, state, ZIP code, phone number or business heading. And get this – you can even find potential new customers based on their *exact distance* from your home or office. Listen to how three businesses use Select Phone every day to find new customers.

1 GeoTarget™ or *"Give me the nearest"*

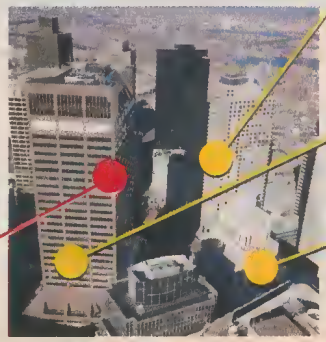
A SELECT PHONE EXCLUSIVE. *Find listings based on their distance from your home, office, or any point you choose.* Meet Brian Goodro, Sales Manager at Thomas Ford in Beverly, Massachusetts. Brian uses Select Phone's GeoTarget feature to help sell vans. His first move is to target plumbers, likely prospects to buy a new van. So



Brian opens Select Phone, clicks on the Business Heading field, and pulls up *PLUMBERS.* Next he uses the GeoTarget feature to narrow his search to "all the plumbers within 10 miles," (or he could ask for the 200 closest plumbers – the choice is his). Now Brian has an instant, targeted list, ready to export to his word processor for a fast and effective direct mail or telemarketing program.

2 Street-smart marketing – or *"Give me all the neighbors"*

The Select Phone way to canvas the neighborhood. Brenda Jackunas is a franchise owner of Windsor Chem-Dry, an Oriental and area rug cleaning shop. Brenda likes to build her business using customer referrals. First she looks up a current customer in Select Phone. Tags it. Then she hits the little red door "Neighbor" button. Within seconds, Select Phone generates a prospect list of her customer's neighbors, the people living on the same street. (She can also use this feature to create a list of all companies within the same office building!) Armed with this list, Brenda gets the customer's permission to have their neighbors drop by and see her company's work. Talk about micro marketing! Who better to sell for you than your own customers. But does it really work? In Brenda's words, "Very successfully!"

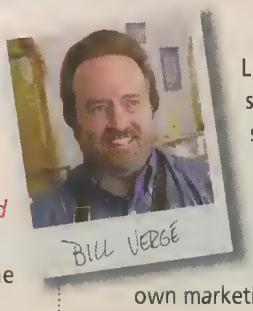


CD-ROMs including companies by *business type* – right on your desktop!

find new business.

3 Instant lists – right on your desktop!

Select Phone comes with unlimited downloading and unlimited use. Bill Vergé designs, creates and sells the gold and platinum jewelry you'll find in his Scituate store.



Like many successful small business owners, Bill must rely on his own marketing efforts to build his business. It's all up to him. So when he's not at his work-bench, Bill's at his computer. After 17 years as a retailer, Bill knows he needs to do at least four mailings a year – 10,000 pieces at a time – to generate decent store traffic. No small investment for any business. After years of renting expensive lists he could only use once, Bill discovered Select Phone. Now he creates his own instant, ready-to-mail lists, saving him the cost, time and aggravation of renting them from a broker. And better yet, Bill is now free to use any or all of Select Phone's 100 million listings as often as he wants.

Select Phone gives you unlimited access to all 100 million listings for your personal use. (Other Phonebooks on CD-ROM limit you to a mere 5,000.)

4 PC World picks Select Phone 1996 Best Buy among all CD-ROM Phone Directories!

"...(PC World) focused on accuracy, ease of use, and search-and-retrieval capabilities. The Best Buy goes to Select Phone for excellence in all three categories. ...its 89 percent accuracy rating surpassed all the other directories'. Extensive search capabilities and a long list of export file formats put it over the top."

– PC World, February 1996

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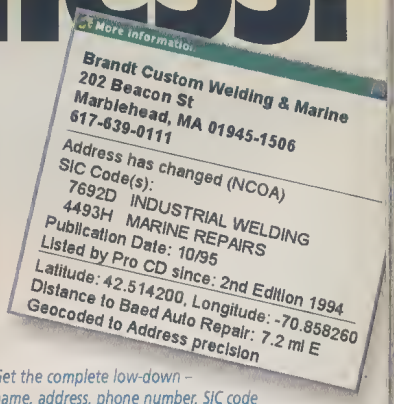

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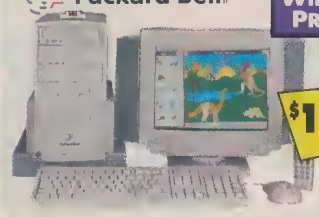

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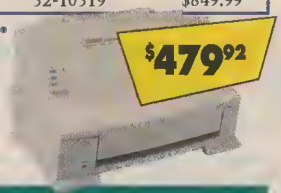

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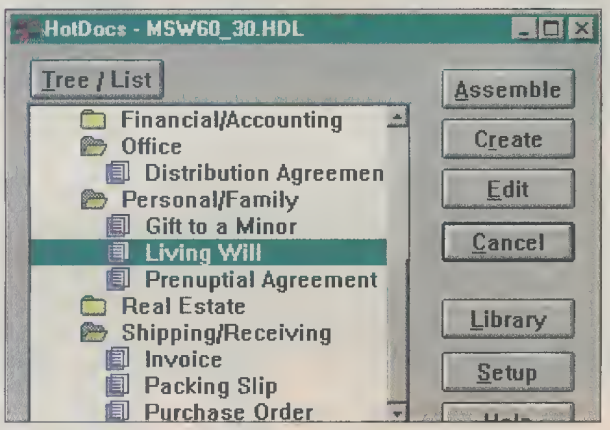
WORD-PROCESSOR ADD-ON

HotDocs 3.0

Creating custom templates with your word processor for routine documents such as contracts, proposals, and business letters is harder than it seems. You have to cut, paste, and edit the text, and the process is fraught with hazards: It's all too easy to insert the wrong pronoun, misspell a name, or overlook a date. Capsoft's HotDocs 3.0 for Windows 3.1 and Windows 95 automates the process, letting you turn anything from simple packing slips to complex partnership agreements into smart templates in just minutes.



It's easy: Select the text in your document and click on the HotDocs button Capsoft adds to your word processor's toolbar. HotDocs prompts you to replace dates, names, and other variables. In addition, HotDocs allows lengthier boilerplate variables, common in legal documents.

HotDocs also comes with a selection of standard documents organized into general business categories. Select the type of document you want to create, and HotDocs walks you through the process by asking a series of questions. HotDocs assembles the data from your answers, inserts information in the correct places, and saves the document.

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FILEBOX

HotDocs 3.0

Pros: Quick and easy custom-template creation without the programming.

Cons: Not yet fully 32-bit, but works with most Windows 95 word processors.

Verdict: Turns any word-processor document into a smart, custom template.

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MetaTools sells other Power Photos collections in this series for $199 each. KPT's Power Photos I includes photos of natural and urban backgrounds, food, and sports and recreation scenes; KPT's Power Photos II offers photos of kids' toys, hot-rods, bugs and butterflies, and nostalgia images, as well as autumn scenes and winter-holiday clips.

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PETER GOULD

FILEBOX

KPT's Power Photos III

Pros: Smart keyword search engine for tracking images.

Cons: Only 375 images in this collection.

Verdict: An eye-catching assortment of playful, practical, and professional images.

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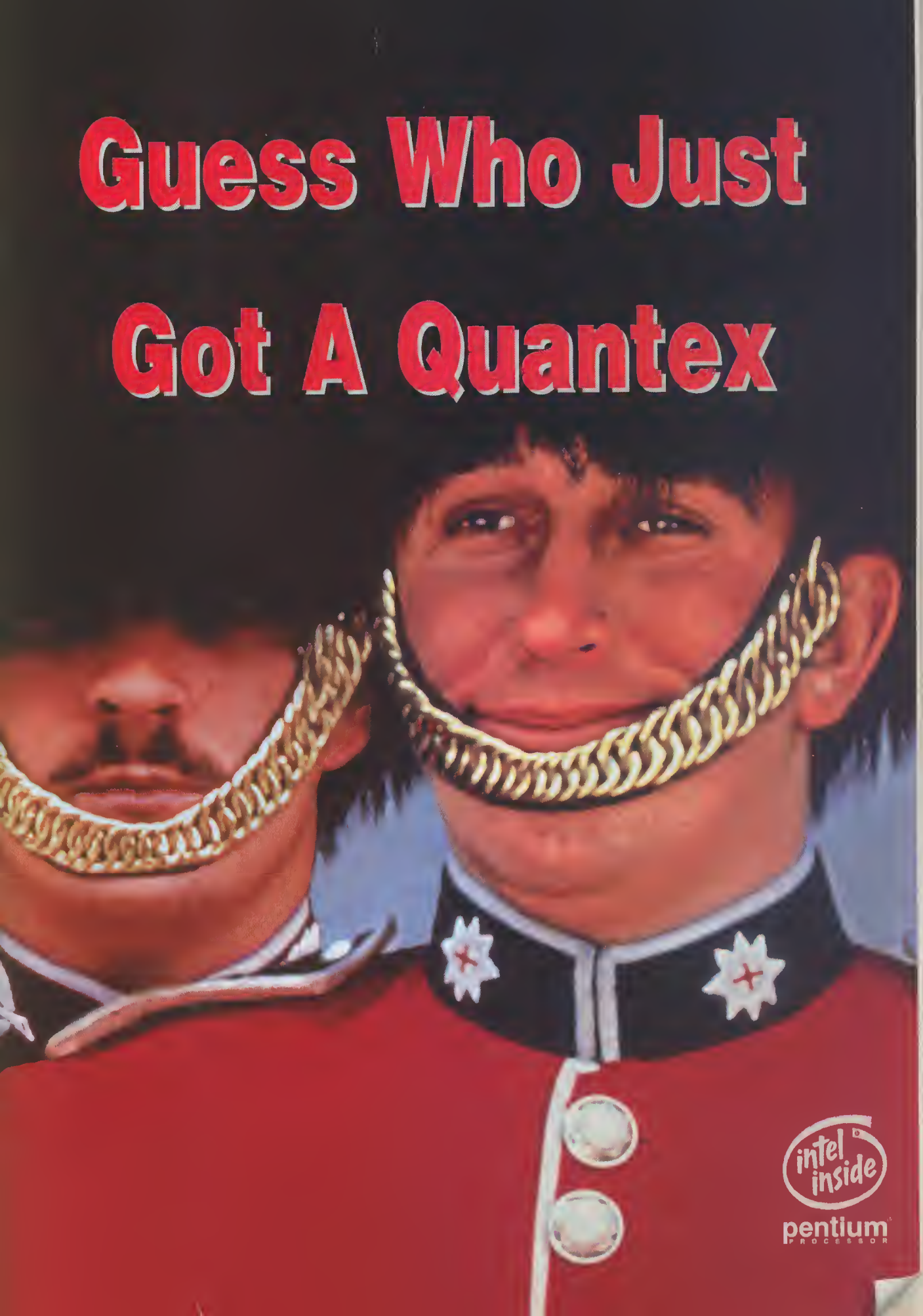
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- 1.6GB 9ms EIDE Made 4 Hard Drive
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- STB PowerGraph 64 Video w/ 2MB EDO RAM (MPEG Playback Ready)
- 15" MAG Digital 1280x1024 Monitor
- 28.8 Fax/Modem w/Voice Mail & Speakerphone
- Toshiba 6X 175ms EIDE CD-ROM Drive
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QP5/120 SM.....$1949
QP5/150 SM.....$2099
QP5/166 SM.....$2249

QP5/150 SM-1 $2399

- Intel 150MHz Pentium processor
- Intel 430HX PCI set
- 16MB EDO Performance-Enhanced Memory
- 512KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- 2GB EIDE Made 4 Hard Drive
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- STB PowerGraph 64 Video w/2MB EDO RAM (MPEG Playback Ready)
- 17" .26dp MAG 1280x1024 Monitor
- 28.8 Fax/Modem w/Voice Mail & Speakerphone
- Toshiba 8X EIDE 145ms CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 16-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
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- STB PowerGraph 64 Video w/ 2MB EDO RAM (MPEG Playback Ready)
- 15"MAG Digital 1280x1024 Monitor
- 28.8 Fax/Modem w/Voice Mail & Speakerphone
- Toshiba 8X EIDE 145ms CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 16-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
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- 512KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- 2.0GB EIDE Mode 4 Hard Drive
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- STB PowerGraph 64 Video w/ 2MB EDO RAM (MPEG Playback Ready)
- 17" .26dp MAG 1280x1024 Monitor
- 28.8 Fax/Modem w/Voice Mail & Speakerphone
- Toshiba 8X EIDE 145ms CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 16-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-31 Speakers w/Subwoofer
- Mini-Tower Case
- 104-Key keyboard & Microsoft Mouse
- Windows 95 with Microsoft Plus!
- Family Software Bundle (preinstalled)
- Upgrade to Lightspeed 128-Bit VGA for $99 more
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- Diamond Stealth64 PCI Video w/2MB VRAM
- 17" .25dp MAG Technitron Monitor (Based on Advanced Sony Trinitron CRT)
- 28.8 fax/modem w/voice mail & speakerphone
- Toshiba 8X EIDE 145ms CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 16-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-31 Speakers w/ subwoofer
- Mid-Tower Case
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- Al Unser Jr. Arcade Racing
- USS Ticonderoga
- Animals II
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- Quicken Financial Manager-SE
- EveryWhere USA Travel Guide
- America Online, Prodigy, CompuServe (one month trial membership to on-line services)
- NetCruiser Plus (Free Internet Access of over 400 hours for one month)
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 2.0

Professional Software Bundle

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- Phone Disc Business '95
- Al Unser Jr. Arcade Racing
- USS Ticonderoga
- America Online, Prodigy, CompuServe (one month trial membership to on-line services)
- NetCruiser Plus (Free Internet Access of over 400 hours for one month)
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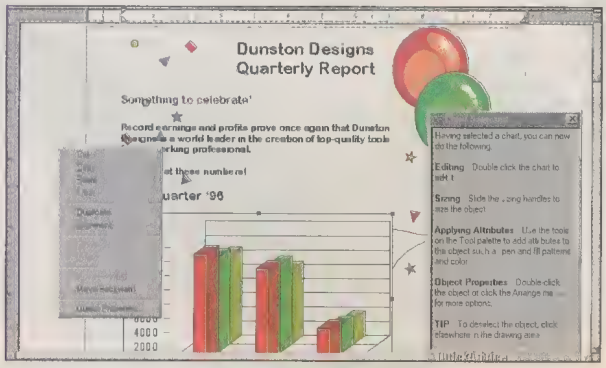
APPLICATION SUITE

PerfectWorks 3

If you're looking for a suite of business applications but you want to avoid all the features, expense, and disk-gulping size of Microsoft's Office, Novell's PerfectWorks 3 for Windows 95 may fit the bill.

This clever collection of apps and utilities for Windows 95 performs a variety of tasks: everything from balancing a checkbook to creating a newsletter full of charts and clip art to browsing the World Wide Web.

Icons on the PerfectWorks QuickStart interface give you access to all the features, which include a word processor, spreadsheet, database, and drawing and painting programs.



You can easily combine documents made with each tool: Add a spreadsheet to a word-processing document, edit the data, and create a colorful chart—all within a matter of seconds.

If you don't know where to begin, PerfectWorks' audio tours guide you through various features, and 41 included templates give you a head start on weekly planners, business cards, newsletters, and other basics.

For keeping in touch with contacts, PerfectWorks includes an address book, Phone Dialer with Caller ID support, and Intuit's Quicken SE financial software. Other modules let you connect to and check e-mail on all the popular online services and the World Wide Web.

Looking for a slick little suite of office-productivity tools that's easy to use and won't bog you down? Then check out PerfectWorks. CHRISTOPHER LINDQUIST

FILEBOX

PerfectWorks 3 for Windows 95

Pros: Compact and easy to use; snappy performance.

Cons: Lacks some of the features of powerful, full-fledged office suites.

Verdict: A smart collection of office-productivity apps that work well together.

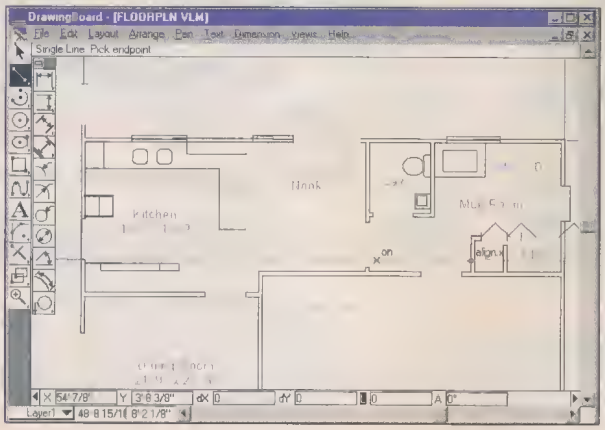
$65 est. street price
Novell
(800) 861-2507, (801) 429-7000
Reader Service No. 866

GRAPHICS SOFTWARE

DrawingBoard

Want to design your dream home or an indoor or outdoor addition to the home you already own? Looking to create a technical design but don't know the first thing about CAD? Ashlar's DrawingBoard, an incredibly straightforward drafting program, combines the precision of a professional 2-D CAD product with the simple interface of a low-end drawing package.

DrawingBoard's interface is uncluttered and elegant. Unlike with most drafting programs, you don't have to learn macro languages or text commands. Select a tool and start drawing.



Despite the spare interface, the program contains several powerful tools. You get spline tools for creating complex objects called non-uniform rational B-splines, or NURBS—important in automotive design and critical to aerodynamics. The program's Status Line gives you feedback on the technical aspects of your drawing. For example, when you select the Smart Wall tool (which draws double lines), the Status Line shows wall thickness, *x*- and *y*-coordinates, length, and angle. The program's Drafting Assistant steps in to help with some of the trickier CAD tasks, such as precisely aligning objects or connecting walls at corners.

DrawingBoard is an easy way to design your vacation home or dream deck. MARK BAARD

FILEBOX

DrawingBoard

Pros: The Drafting Assistant spots you on trickier tasks, such as aligning objects.

Cons: Changing geometry isn't always easy.

Verdict: A powerful tool for creating technical drawings, even if you don't know the first thing about CAD.

$250 est. street price
Ashlar
(800) 877-2745, (408) 746-1810
Reader Service No. 867

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Circle 195 on reader service card

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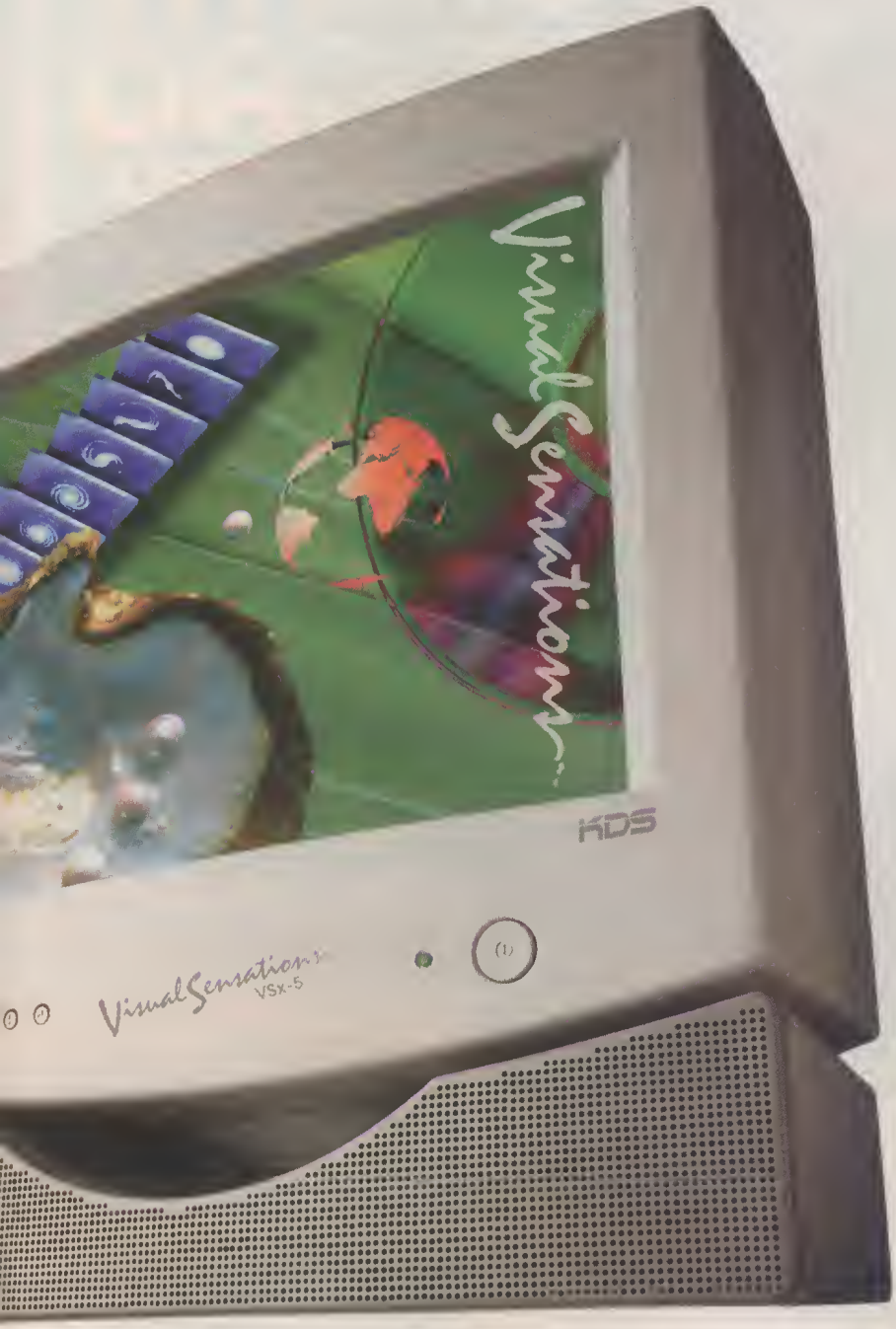

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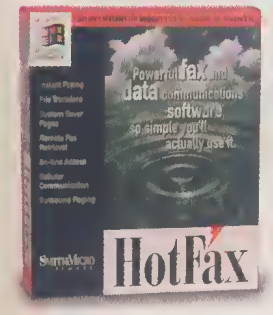

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Laptop users can selectively retrieve faxes remotely without paying a third-party service and HotFax includes single-click cellular support.

With Windows 95, HotFax routes MS Exchange mail to alphanumeric pagers. It also supports direct outbound numeric and alphanumeric paging.

Smith Micro is the leader in fax, data, telephony and video technologies with QuickLink II, HotFax, HotFax Message Center, FaxUSA, HotLine, HotDisk, HotPage and AudioVision. For more information or the name of your nearest dealer, call us at 800-964-SMSI or point us out on the web at www.smithmicro.com.

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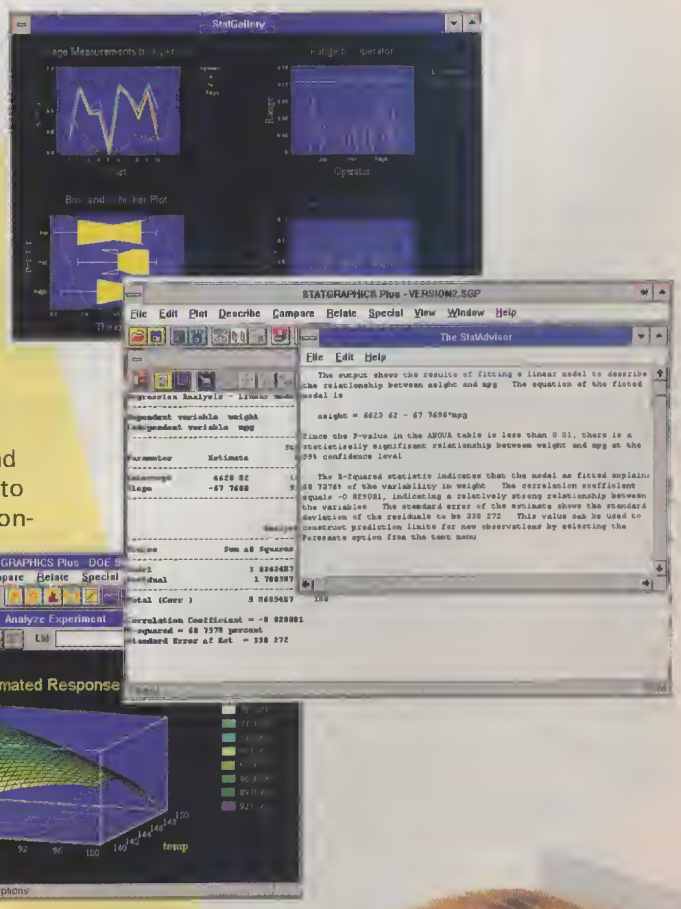

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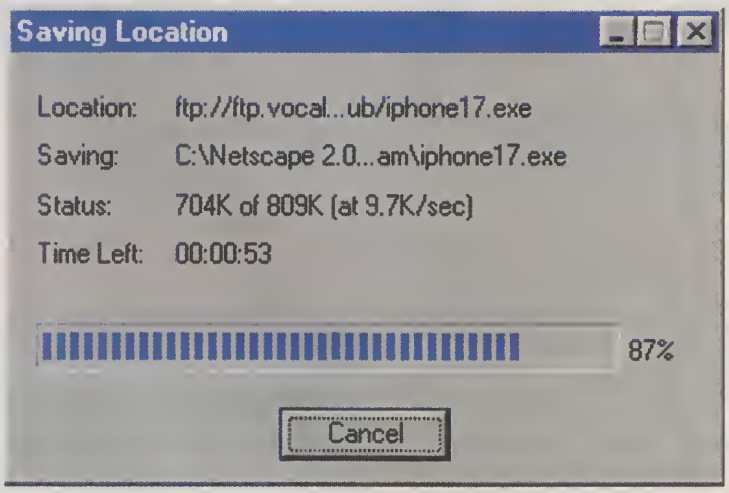

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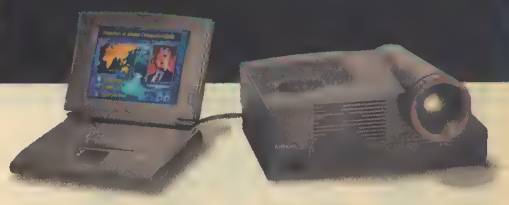

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Circle 240 on reader service card.

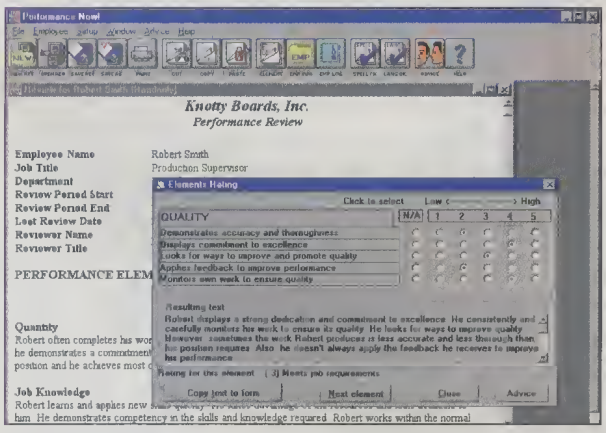
 More reviews on page 236

MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Performance Now

Few things raise the hair on the back of a manager's neck the way employee-performance evaluations do. After all, who wants to take part in a process that's annoying at best and outright hostile at worst? Performance Now from KnowledgePoint makes the process a bit less painful. It walks managers through creating carefully worded reviews to help employees understand both their strengths and their weaknesses.

Using a process called Intelli-Text, Performance Now asks you to evaluate an employee's performance in ten key areas, such as problem solving or cooperation. After rating performance on a scale of one to five in any or all of the ten categories, Performance Now displays carefully worded phrases that can help you articulate this performance rating to an employee—without getting into legal hot water.



Paste the comments into one of the program's review forms, add your own notes or examples, and you have a completed review. The Language Checker feature lets you search the review for inappropriate phrases you may have added, while an online advisor provides tips and warnings for the review process. The included Employee Log even lets you keep track of employees' problems and accomplishments.

Dread the employee review process? Do yourself a favor and get Performance Now. CHRISTOPHER LINDQUIST

FILEBOX

Performance Now

Pros: Quickly creates fair reviews with a well-designed interface and useful online help.

Cons: It may not catch all inappropriate language.

Verdict: A painless way to prepare for employee-performance reviews.

$99 est. street price
KnowledgePoint
(800) 727-1133, (707) 762-0333
Reader Service No. 868

LOAN MANAGEMENT

LoanBuilder

Venture capitalists, bankers, and even family members who trust you enough to loan you money to start a business will want to see a solid loan and payment plan before they part with a check. If you're excited about your business prospects but intimidated by the financial technicalities of going into debt, LoanBuilder from Jian Software can help. It provides templates for financial documents that small businesses commonly need.

LoanBuilder starts by helping you select the type of loan you need, be it from a rich uncle or the Small Business Administration. Next, it helps you figure out the best repayment terms, and what type of loan strategy you need—key if you're approaching more than one potential lender. Unfortunately, most of these steps have to be done on paper, with the aid of LoanBuilder's manual. The software focuses only on delivering electronic versions of the myriad forms you might need. You can read the forms from any major spreadsheet or word processor program, such as Microsoft's Excel or Word.

That said, the manual is well written and its decision trees are easy to use. The document templates make it easy to put together a professional loan package for the bank. If you're taking out a loan for the first time, LoanBuilder will get you off to a running start. LEANDER KAHNEY

FILEBOX

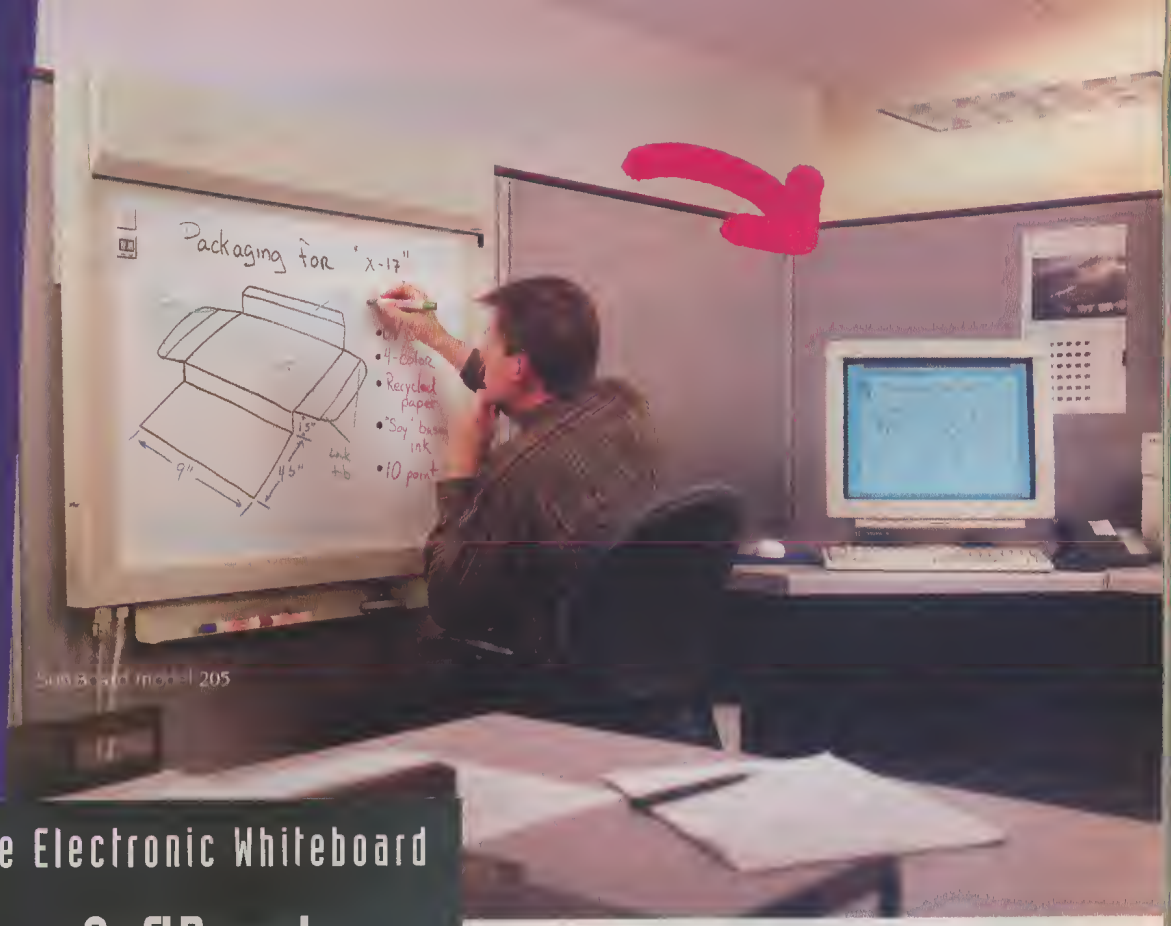
LoanBuilder

Pros: Helps you choose the type of loan you need and provides necessary forms.

Cons: There's no built-in financial calculator; all the help and advice is in the manual, not on disk.

Verdict: All you need to prepare a loan package.

$89 est. street price
Jian Software
(800) 762-2413, (415) 254-5600
Reader Service No. 869



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SoftBoard

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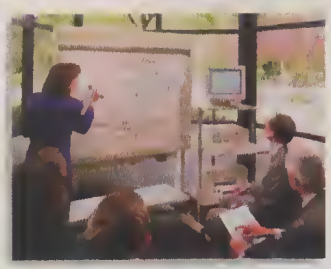
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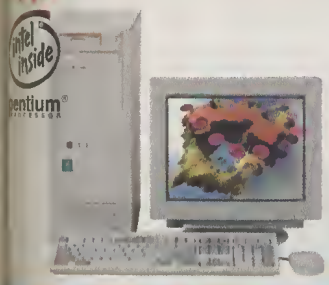

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Model	CRT Size	Maximum Addressable Resolution (H x V) Pixels	Auto-Scan Range	Estimated Selling Price
Performance Line				
Diamond Scan 15HX	15"/13.8" DVI*	1280 x 1024/60 Hz NI, 1024 x 768/75 Hz	H:30-64 kHz, V:50-90 Hz	$450.00
Diamond Scan 15VX	15"/13.8" DVI*	1280 x 1024/60 Hz NI,	H:30-65 kHz, V:55-100 Hz	$410.00
Diamond Scan 17HX	17"/15.7" DVI*	1600 x 1200/65 Hz NI	H:30-82 kHz, V:50-130 Hz	$849.00
Diamond Scan 20H	20"/18.6" DVI*	1600 x 1200/65 Hz NI	H:30-82 kHz, V:50-152 Hz	$1,699.00
Diamond Scan 20M	20"/18.6" DVI*	1024 x 768 I, 800 x 600 NI	H:15-38 kHz, V:45-90 Hz	$1,699.00
Diamond Scan 20LP	20"/18.6" DVI*	1024 x 768 I, 800 x 600 NI	H:15-38 kHz, V:45-90 Hz	$1,745.00
Professional Line				
Diamond Pro 17TX	17"/16.0" DVI*	1600 x 1200/66 Hz NI	H:30-86 kHz, V:50-152 Hz	$1,059.00
Diamond Pro 21TX	21"/19.7" DVI*	1600 x 1200/75 Hz NI	H:30-93 kHz, V:50-152 Hz	$1,899.00

* DVI: Diagonal Viewable Image. Certain non-standard timing formats will reduce Diagonal Viewable Image.

MITSUBISHI
DISPLAY PRODUCTS

Diamond Pro 17TX

Diamond Scan 20H

Diamond Pro 21TX

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DIGITAL TECH SUPPORT

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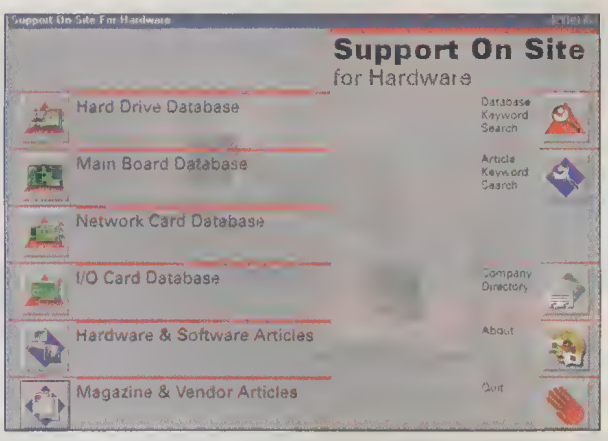
You'll find high-quality information on the discs, including technical diagrams for configuring network cards, and other hard-to-find documentation. The glossary and tutorials on such topics as memory-speed guidelines are handy, as are the reports that cover hardware compatibility with networks as well as operating systems.



But trying to find specific information with Support On Site for Hardware is often easier said than done. Rather than listing elements by product name, the database uses part numbers. Also, information on specific hardware is often limited—most product information is restricted to simple specs and jumper settings.

Even so, if you're responsible for your company's network and you use a variety of hardware, Support On Site for Hardware makes a handy general reference tool. The search engine could stand improvement, but the information it contains is very useful. JACK LYON

FILEBOX

Support On Site for Hardware

Pros: Instant information on hardware products.

Cons: It's costly, and specific hardware information can be hard to find.

Verdict: A solid hardware reference tool.

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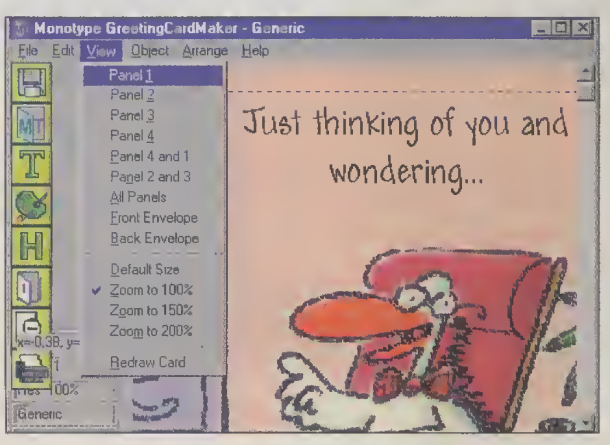

Printing the cards is a little tricky. To figure out your printer's page orientation, test a few standard sheets of paper so you don't waste cards by printing upside down or backward. GreetingCardMaker includes a rudimentary address database, which is handy if you send a lot of cards to the same people.

At only $29, GreetingCardMaker is a bargain. Even if you don't send a lot of cards now, with GreetingCardMaker's creativity and personalization, you'll be sending cards because they're fun to make. And you'll brighten someone's day in the process. RICH SCHWERIN

FILEBOX

GreetingCardMaker

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Cons: Printing cards can be a bit tricky and the interface is awkward.

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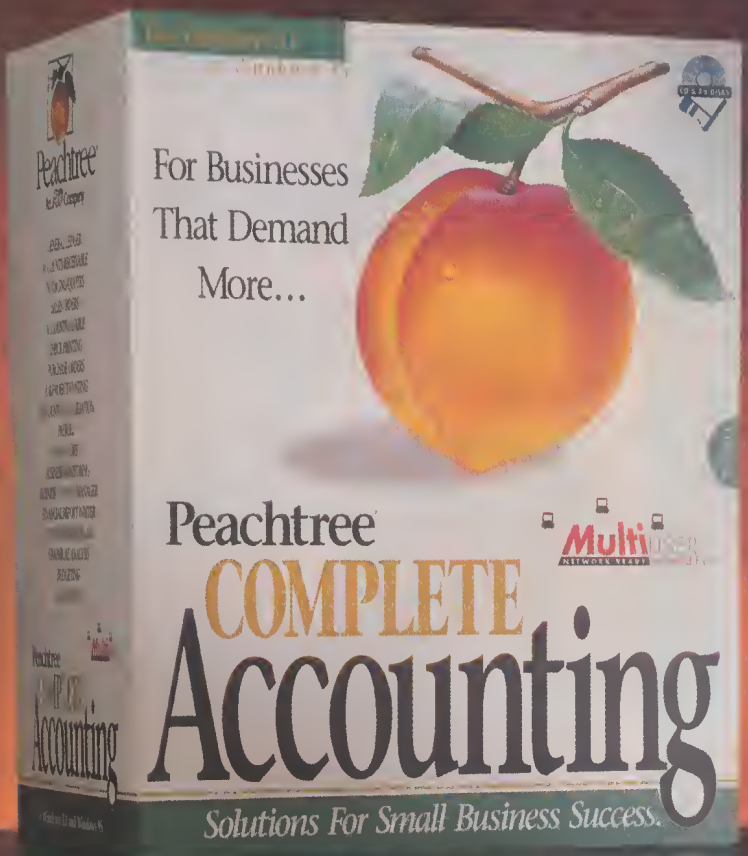

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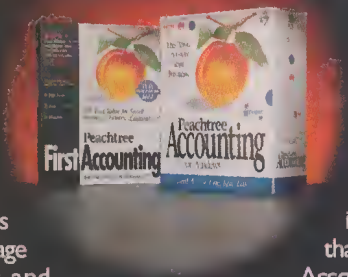

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HURRICANE™ isn't the only way to significantly speed up your PC's performance and make it possible to run many, many programs at once...

...It's just the only way that makes sense.

A CPU upgrade will give you about the same 20–30% performance improvement as Hurricane. But at $500, it's ten times the cost and a #@%?! to install.

Then again, you could install more RAM for the relatively bargain price of just $250. But that's still five times the price of Hurricane (and a degree in computer engineering wouldn't hurt).

So, why bother with costly hardware when 50 bucks gets you Hurricane – the highest-rated utility in its category? (And it's a cinch to install.)

Hurricane replaces virtual memory, (which slows you to a crawl) by hunting down unused memory. Its **RAM Expander**™ compresses RAM for improved Windows 95 performance. Its **WinPack**™ compresses a program to reclaim its memory at the click of your mouse. And for Windows 3.x **Heap Expander**™ provides unlimited resources and cleans up after applications. In fact, Hurricane incorporates an entire arsenal of system-enhancing utilities which install (or de-install) automatically, and are guaranteed to have your system operating at peak speed. Yes, Hurricane will accelerate your computing even if you have tons of RAM.

PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE
February 20, 1996
Hurricane 1.02

When it comes to Hurricane, the experts are unanimous:

PC Magazine raves: *"Hurricane whirls Windows performance to new heights"...*"It is essential equipment for today's Windows PC."[1] *"Nothing else came*

close to letting us load and run so many applications at once... hands-down the best package around."[2] **Windows Magazine** is in awe: *"Hurricane is a veritable Houdini...the difference is dramatic...lets your system exceed its limitations."*[3] **PC World** is definitive: *"Hurricane provides the best performance."*[4] **The Christian Science Monitor** gushes: *"...There's a new star on the horizon. Hurricane allowed me to load 14 of my favorite programs at the same time."*[5] **Computer Shopper** gets to the bottom line: *"Hurricane offers the most bang for the buck."*[6]

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Unless you have hundreds of dollars burning a hole in your pocket (and need to tinker with the innards of your PC) get your Hurricane today. It's available at your favorite software dealer, or direct from Helix at **1-888-795-1200**. If you're not 100% thrilled, return within 60 days for a full refund.

Phone: 718-392-3100 Internet: http://www.helixsoftware.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: A 386 PC, or greater, Windows 95, Windows 3.1/3.11 or Windows for Workgroups 3.11, 4Mb RAM or more

[1] 9/26/95 [2] 2/20/96 [3] 9/95 [4] 10/95 [5] 12/12/95 [6] 11/95

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PC MAGAZINE EDITOR'S CHOICE October 10 1995 Pipeline USA

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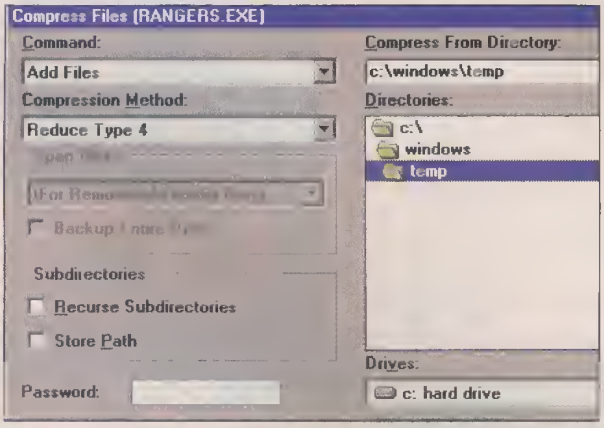
 More reviews on page 252

INTERNET FILE-COMPRESSION UTILITY

NetZip Professional

Compressing and archiving infrequently used files is a great way to reclaim hard drive space. It's also all but required when sending or downloading files on the Internet. NetZip Professional from Software Builders makes compressing and decompressing files easy.

NetZip runs as an icon on your desktop. Launch Windows 95's Explorer or Windows 3.1's File Manager, select the files you want to compress, and drag and drop them onto the NetZip icon. NetZip compresses the files and prompts you to name what NetZip calls the new archive file. Follow the same steps to decompress an archived file, and NetZip prompts you through the rest. You can decompress an entire archive or just specific files within the archive.



NetZip supports nine compression methods, with variable speeds and compression ratios for each. You can also create self-extracting compressed files with NetZip's ZipPlus feature, or test the integrity of compressed files. A spanning option lets you save compressed files across multiple floppy disks (except for ZipPlus files, unfortunately). Also impressive is NetZip's ability to open files stored in the Unix TAR format, a common format on the Internet.

Having trouble opening all those enormous files you've been downloading off the Net? Check out NetZip. It's an excellent file-compression utility.

MARK BAARD

FILEBOX

NetZip Professional

Pros: Extensive file support; takes the guesswork out of creating zipped files.

Cons: It opens Unix TAR files, but can't compress them.

Verdict: An excellent file-compression utility for Internet surfers.

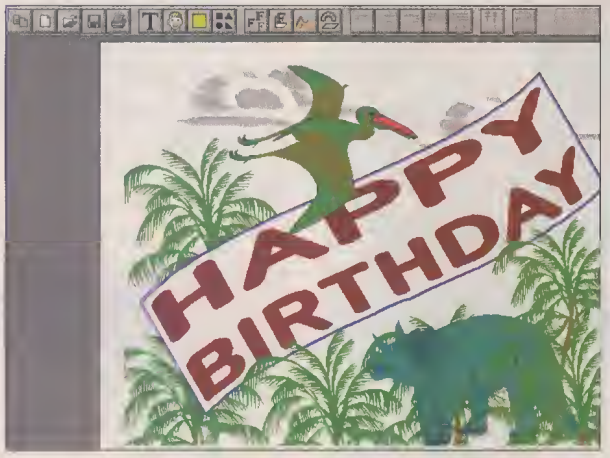
$40 est. street price
Software Builders Int'l
(800) 432-0025, (770) 395-6495
Reader Service No. 872

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

Print Artist 3.0

Crude, handmade signs are cute when they're designed by your kids, but you need something more polished. To create professional-looking signs and banners for business and home events—without diving into a serious desktop-publishing program—check out Print Artist 3.0 from Sierra On-Line. Print Artist 3.0 includes everything you need to create your own paper designs.

Getting started with Print Artist is a snap. The program includes more than 1,000 templates. Select the one you want and create your own signs, banners, business cards, stationery, and other paper projects. Some of the templates are just plain cheesy, but you can change the fonts, clip art, or other elements, as you see fit. More ambitious artists can bypass the templates and start from scratch. Select from hundreds of fonts and pictures and position them in a new document to create your own work of art.



Print Artist 3.0 also comes with several crafts, such as cutout towns that children can print and create. Teachers can design signs for classrooms, and the documentation has several suggestions for student activities. Whether you need a nameplate for your office, a campaign banner for a school election, or a project for a rainy day, Print Artist 3.0 has you covered.

JULIE McCULLOUGH

FILEBOX

Print Artist 3.0

Pros: More than 1,000 templates to get you started.

Cons: Some of the styles and colors are vintage 1970s.

Verdict: Lets you point and click your way to great signs and banners.

$65 est. street price; $50 for a limited version with fewer graphics and fonts
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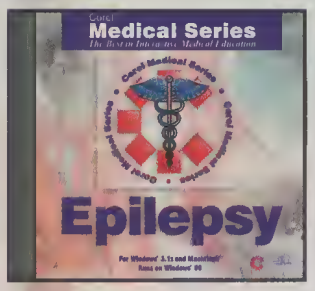
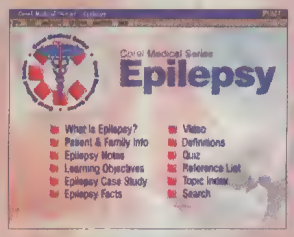
- Everyone's Guide to Cancer Therapy
- Headaches
- Infertility
- Mobility Aids
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Pediatric Renal Anomalies
- Sleep Disorders
- Stroke
- The Amputee
- The Immune System



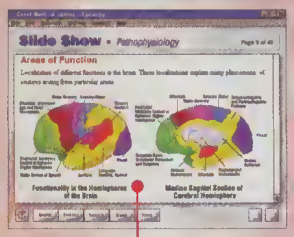
$19.98*

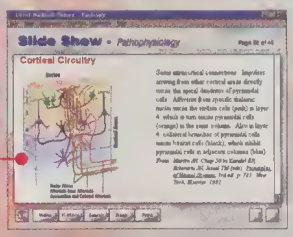
Written by a neurologist with a special interest in the field of epilepsy:
A. Guberman M.D., F.R.C.P. (C).
Professor of Neurology, University of Ottawa

The first title in the Corel Medical Series covers the topic of epilepsy from various perspectives, including pathophysiology, epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment, in a comprehensive, problem-based interactive format. This multimedia title provides a wealth of up-to-date information on this rapidly expanding area of medical research and offers in-depth analysis of all aspects of epilepsy. This indispensable CD-ROM is an invaluable resource for medical students, physicians, neurology and psychiatry residents, nurses and especially patients and their families.

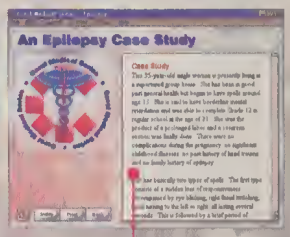


Videos
Set up as an audio-visual exercise to examine various types of seizures.





Slide Show
Includes a search feature, allowing self-navigation through all text and images.



Case Study
The real-life case study provides an overview of the typical problems associated with epilepsy.

KJR-0144-US

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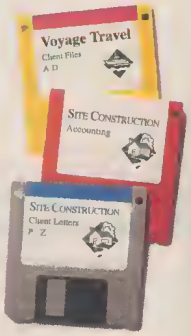

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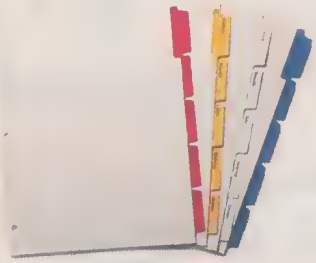

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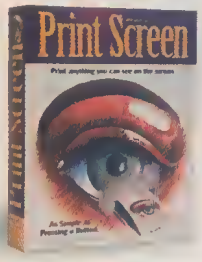
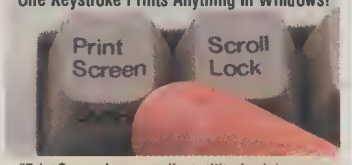
Print Screen is a must-have utility for every Windows user! It's perfect when you're surfing the Internet and you discover a great-looking home page, or you see a picture of a new product you just have to know more about. When you're running your favorite CD-ROM software and you want to share an exciting moment with someone else (to prove you really did make it to the 25th level), just hit a key for an instant printout. You can capture all the information you need permanently on paper from online services such as America OnLine, CompuServe, and Prodigy, plus bulletin boards too. In the past, this kind of printing convenience was impossible—now it's one click away! Operates seamlessly on all Windows platforms: Windows 3.x, Windows 95, Windows NT and Windows for Workgroups.



One Keystroke Prints Anything In Windows!



"Print Screen is an excellent utility that brings your Print Screen key back to life under Windows by printing the active window or full screen either to a printer or a fax driver."

—PC Magazine, February 20, 1996.

Auto Save The entire screen or the active window to a .BMP file which can be read by most Windows programs.

• Print To any printer or fax; portrait or landscape.

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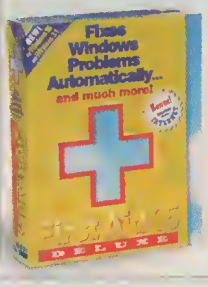

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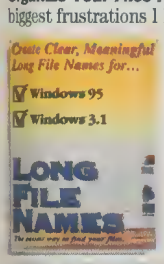
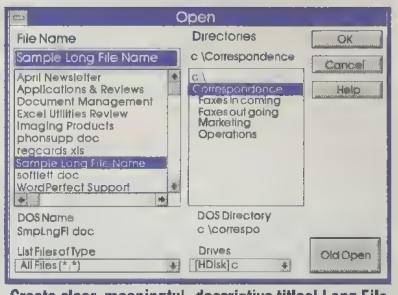
Windows 95 has some terrific features. But if you're planning to upgrade, here's something you should know: If you want to use Windows 95's new long file name capability, you have to upgrade all your applications to their new Windows 95 versions!

Sticking With Windows 3.1? Right now you're happy with Windows 3.1. With Long File Names for WIN 95 and WIN 3.1, you can create file names up to 255 characters long, for all your applications.

Organize Your Files ...Quickly! One of the biggest frustrations I have with computers lies in having to dream up—in only eight characters—a descriptive name for every one of my files. As long as the file has a super-simple name, no problem. But what if it's something like Northern Sales Tracking For Fiscal Year '95? You wind up with a file called NSTRFY95. (I actually found a file by that name on my system recently!) How about JF%SEP01? Multiply that by several hundred files and it's obvious you're in big trouble when you need to find a file in a hurry. Fortunately, liberation from eight-character file names is at hand—with Long File Names for Windows. Long File Names uses the same File, Open and Save As commands you are used to.





Create clear, meaningful, descriptive titles! Long File Names makes it simple! No more cryptic names!

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V31-1100 **Long File Names For Windows 95** WIN **$29.99**

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Want to run Windows 95 on the world's fastest computer? You can with these hot new processors from Cyrix! The new Cyrix 6x86 series have been tested, proven, and are now ready to run on your desktop like nothing you've ever seen before. Cyrix is faster than the Pentium. Faster than the Pentium Pro. Faster than any other PC on Earth for running DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 95, and all your favorite applications. And at this low price, this upgrade is unbeatable.

It's Easier Than You Think! Today's PCs are amazingly easy to remove and install parts. This kit includes a Cyrix CPU already mounted on a PCI motherboard, installed in this roomy case with power supply. You simply remove the hard disk, video card, floppy drive and RAM chips from your old PC (just a few screws and cables) and slip them into this hot new 6x86. It's easy! We've even included a video to show you how.

6th Generation Speed Devours The Pentium! The Cyrix 6x86 is proven compatible with Windows 95, Windows NT, Windows for Workgroups, Windows 3.1, 3.0, DOS, NetWare and OS/2. Check the specs and you'll see the Cyrix is faster than any other PC processor. The Cyrix 6x86 processors are the absolute fastest available for both 16 and 32-bit Windows applications—the kind businesses use both now and in the future. Technically speaking, the 6x86 has features found only in the Pentium Pro and PowerPC 604 chips. But unlike the Pentium Pro, the 6x86 is optimized for 16-bit and 32-bit Windows software. Intel's Pentium Pro was built for systems that don't exist on the desktop yet. Cyrix's 6x86 was built for Windows 95, Windows 3.1 and DOS—all the applications that are important today and for many years to come. The 6x86 includes an 80-bit FPU for math calculations, 32 registers (versus 8 in the Pentium), dual pipelines for twice as many instructions as the Pentium, and lots of other technical advances. But the bottom line is this: the Cyrix 6x86 is the fastest, fully compatible x86 processor in the world. It runs DOS, Windows 3.1 and 95 software faster than anything else.

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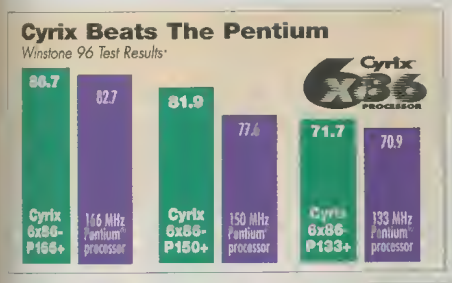
This Cyrix 6x86 processor, motherboard and case is the ultimate upgrade you can buy for your PC. With the free installation video, anyone can easily use their existing hard disk and other parts to build the world's fastest PC. This kit includes case, motherboard, 6x86 processor, 200-watt power supply, onboard controller and more. Call our upgrade experts for more information.



Processor	PUS	ZIF Socket	Slots	Plug & Play	Max DRAM	EDO RAM Support	SIMM Sockets	Write Back Cache	Flash AMI BIOS	2-Serial 1 Parallel	E-IDE Controller	Case Design	Power Supply	Kit Item#	Kit Price
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6x86-P150+	PCI	Yes	4PCI, 4ISA	Yes	128MB	Yes	4	256 Pipelined	Yes	Yes	4	Mid	200	A113-8650	$649.99
6x86-P166+	PCI	Yes	4PCI, 4ISA	Yes	128MB	Yes	4	256 Pipelined	Yes	Yes	4	Mid	200	A113-8666	$888.88
6x86-P200+	PCI	Yes	4PCI, 4ISA	Yes	128MB	Yes	4	256 Pipelined	Yes	Yes	4	Mid	200	A113-8699	$1088.99
5x86-100	PCI	Yes	3PCI, 4ISA	Yes	128MB	Yes	4	256 L2	Yes	Yes	4	Mid	200	A113-8101	$299.99
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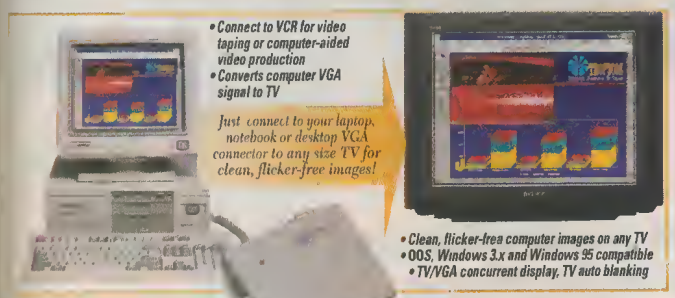

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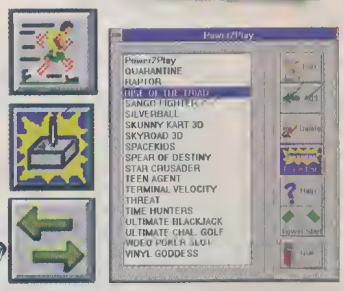
"**Power2Play** will let you play the most recalcitrant of resource-hungry DOS games while running Windows 3.1 or Windows 95. Most games run by a single click from the **Power2Play** menu without user intervention..." ***PC Magazine, 2/20/96***. **Power2Play** is the revolutionary new game launcher for every Windows user who wants to run all the great DOS games with the ease of a single mouse click! What a great idea! AND you'll receive a FREE BONUS: A sleek, powerful Windows 3.1 un-installer to clean away those fragments and pieces of debris that clog your system—and 70 of the hottest DOS Shareware games!



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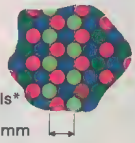

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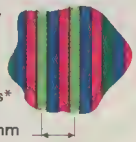

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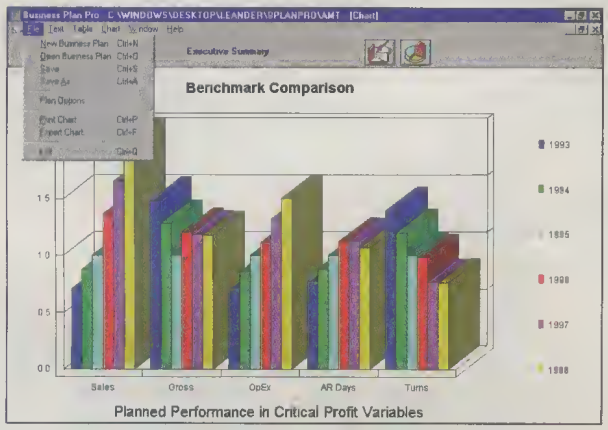

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Business Plan Pro 1.2

Pros: It leads you through each step of the process.

Cons: The best advice is in the manual, not onscreen.

Verdict: Inexpensive, straightforward help for crafting a basic business plan.

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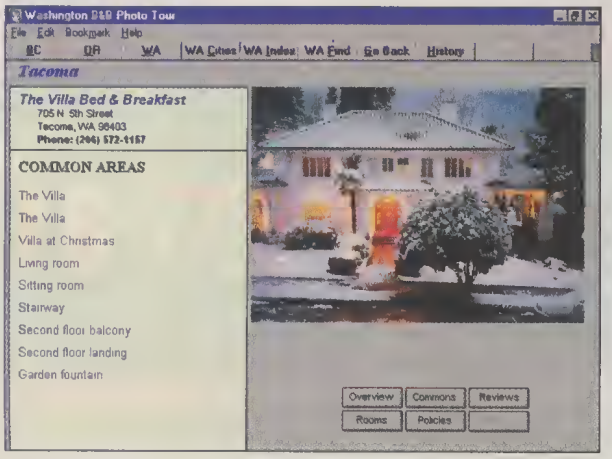
REFERENCE CD-ROM

Bed & Breakfasts

We all need a vacation, but who has time to plan one? Northwest Bed & Breakfasts from Hidden Jewel Software might be just what you need to easily plan that getaway. It's a detailed compilation of the bed-and-breakfast inns of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, including 1,000 photos of 150 different accommodations.

Planning a vacation has never been simpler or more enjoyable. In a matter of mouse clicks you're there, perusing the guest rooms, common areas, gardens, and kitchens of some of the coziest, most relaxing places in the Northwest. Built-in indexes help you find inns that allow children or pets, provide handicapped access, or cater to other special travel needs. Narrow your choices with the search tool, and see which inns have the amenities you want, such as beach, mountains, or hot tub.



Listings include details on prices, check-in and check-out times, menus, nearby attractions, and all the information necessary to help you prepare for your much-needed holiday. As a bonus, some of the inns kindly share their most prized recipes.

Northwest Bed & Breakfasts is not only a great tool for planning a relaxing vacation, but also a great gift for a stressed-out friend in dire need of rest—a state that probably describes just about everyone you know.

LYDIA M. KARLOWICZ

FILEBOX

A Photo Tour of Northwest Bed & Breakfasts

Pros: Previews of inns are rich with details.

Cons: It doesn't dial the phone and make reservations for you.

Verdict: Planning a trip? Need to relax? Get this CD.

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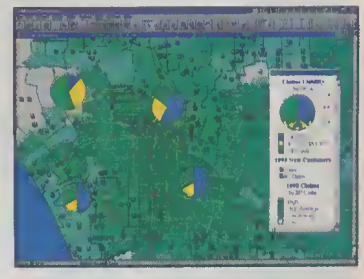

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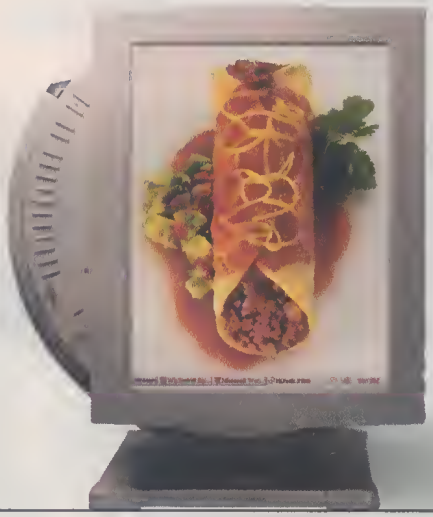

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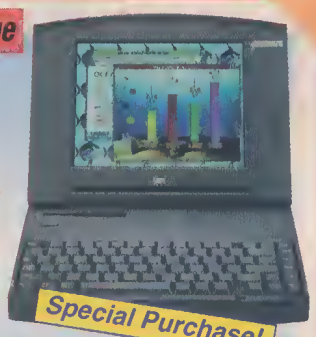

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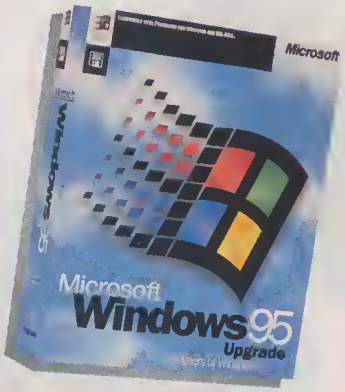

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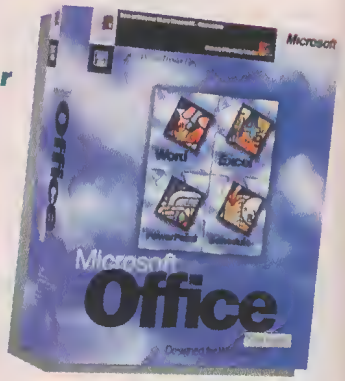

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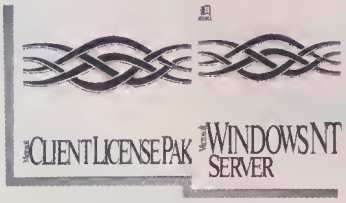

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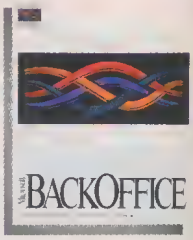

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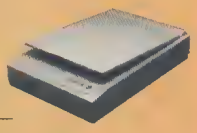

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32Kx8 (3 3V)		14 00	9 50	-
64Kx1	-	11 00	9 00	8 00
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1Megx4	-	49 00	39 00	38 00	-
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256x4(Page Dip)	-	7 25	6 75	6 50	5 95
256 4(Static Dip)	-	-	9 85	-	-
256x4(Page Zip)	-	8 25	8 00	8 95	-
256x4(Video Zip)	-	-	12 95	11 95	9 85
256x8(SOJ)	-	19 00	18 00	-	-
256 x1	-	3 25	2 95	2 75	2 25
64x4	-	-	-	3 75	-
64x1	-	-	-	-	2 00
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1Meg x 9 (3 chip)	-	-	35 00	32 00	30 00	-
1Meg x 9 (9 chip)	-	-	34 00	32 00	23 00	22 00
4Meg x 9	-	-	124 00	119 00	105 00	-
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256 x 36 1 mg	39 00	39 00	39 00
512 x 36 2 mg	74 00	69 00	69 00
1 meg x 36 4 mg	114 00	109 00	109 00
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	16Meg	500987 004	334 00
	32Meg	500987-005	668 00
Premmia LX P/60, MX4/66d 4/100T P/60	8 Meg	500987 003	178 00
	16 Meg	501340 002	358 00
	32 Meg	500987-005	899 00
	64 Meg	501569-001	Call
Premmia 4133, 4133S, 4/50d, 4/60d	8 Meg	501159 002	218 00
Premmia SE 4/33, 4/66d, P/60	16 Meg	501159 003	388 00
Premmia MTE 4/33, 4/66d P/60	32 Meg	501159-004	718 00
Manhattan G V Series Server	64 Meg	501159 005	1398 00
Power Premium 3/33 4/33 4/33S 4/50d 4/66d	8Meg	500780-001	198 00
Premium 486/25, 486/25E, 486/33, 486/33E			
Premium 386/33TE 486/25TE, 486/33TE			
Prem I1386/25 386/33 486/33 486 SX/20			
Bravo 486/25 486/33	2 Meg Kit	500780-005	98 00
Advantage 486/25 486/33 486/33P 486 SX/20			
Premium SE4/22	8Meg Kit	500780-001	198 00
Premium SE 4/50, d, 88d, P/60	1 Meg	500780-003	49 00
Prem 386/33T, 386 SX16 Prem II 386SX 20 386/25	4Meg	500780 004	99 00
Premmia GX P/90 P/100	8Meg Kit/16MegKit	501565 001/501566 001	218/342
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92F9935 (2Meg)	P/S1 & P/S1/386SX 2121	69 00
92F9694 (4Meg)	P/S1 & P/S1/386SX Model-2121	119 00
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T4400SX SXC T6400 T6600	4Meg	PC-PA2004U	164 00
T4400SX SXC T6400 T6600	8Meg	PC-PA2005U	279 00
T4400SX SXC T6400 T6600	16Meg	PC-PA2010U	599 00
T4500 C T4600 T4700 T1900 C T1910 T1950 (3 3 v)	4Meg	PC-PA2012U	129 00
T4500 C T4600 T4700 T1900 C T1910 T1950 (3 3 v)	8Meg	PC-PA2013U	239 00
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ACER 750	4Meg/8Meg/16Meg		139/268/524
ACER Note Pro., ACER Note Lite	***4Meg/8Meg/16Meg***		***119/229/509***
ARM TS30	4Meg/8Meg/16Meg		139/269/524
AST Ascentia 900N 800N 810 910	4Meg/8Meg/16Meg		139/268/524
AST Ascentia 950	8Meg/16Meg		289/534
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AST Power Exec 3/25C, 425EL 425SL	4Meg/16Meg	501166 001 -003	138/619
AST Power Exec 4/33SL	4Meg/16Meg	501318 001 002	149/519
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AT&T Globalyst 200	4Meg/8Meg/16Meg		139/289/534
AT&T Safari NSX/20	4Meg	PEC 37651	218 00
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Canon Notejet 486 33 486C 25 and 33	4Meg/8Meg		149/289
Canon Notejet 486c 75 100	8Meg/16Meg		289/579
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Dell Latitude 486 425, 433C, 433CX 450, 450CX	4 Meg/16 Meg		139/549
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MPC Model 380	4Meg/8Meg/16Meg		139/268/524
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Epson 1000 1500 5000 5200	-	-	-	86	-	-	178	-	-	-	-	-
HP 2 2D–	-	-	-	79	-	-	118	-	-	-	-	-
HP 3 3D 3P 2P 2P+	-	-	-	***79***	-	-	***118***	-	-	-	-	-
HP 4 4M 4SI 4SIMX	-	-	-	59	-	-	109	-	-	189	-	-
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HP 5L	-	-	58	88	-	-	149	-	-	289	-	-
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HP Paintjet XL300	54	-	-	-	-	-	88	-	-	195	379	-
IBM Laser 4019 4019E	-	-	-	-	-	139	-	-	-	-	-	-
IBM Laser 4029 4037	-	-	-	-	-	-	119	-	-	-	-	-
IBM Laser 4039 4679	-	-	-	***88***	-	-	***118***	-	-	***208***	-	-
Konica LP 3110 3115	-	-	119	189	239	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lexmark Medley 4C 4x 4SX	-	-	Call	Call	Call	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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NEC 90 290	-	-	-	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEC 95 97	-	-	-	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oki 400	-	-	-	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oki 400E 400EX 410E 410EX	-	-	89	109	188	-	188	-	-	-	-	-
Oki 830 840	-	-	-	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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Packard Bell 9815	-	-	-	138	-	-	228	-	-	-	-	-
Panasonic 4420/4450I	-	-	-	99	-	-	158	-	-	-	-	-
Panasonic 4410/4430	-	-	-	***88***	-	-	***158***	-	-	-	-	-
Panasonic 4450	-	-	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Panasonic 4400/5400	-	-	88	99	-	-	188	-	-	-	-	-
Panasonic 4440 5410 6500	-	-	78	88	-	-	158	-	-	-	-	-
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Sharp 9500 E H 9700 H	-	-	79	-	-	-	258	-	-	-	-	-
TI XL/PS17/PS35	-	-	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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16-Bit Stereo Business Audio
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Windows® 95 Pre-Installed

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Built-in Microphone, Speaker & External Jacks for Line-In/Line-Out
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Windows 95 Pre-Installed

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The name says it all. ***The Edge***. The Austin Edge. As soon as you watch it perform, you'll know this notebook gives you The Competitive Edge. It builds the foundation of its performance package on the Intel 430MX Chipset and includes high-end features like 256KB Pipeline Burst L2 Cache.

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Source. PC Magazine, July 1995

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810MB Hard Drive (Fast IDE Interface)
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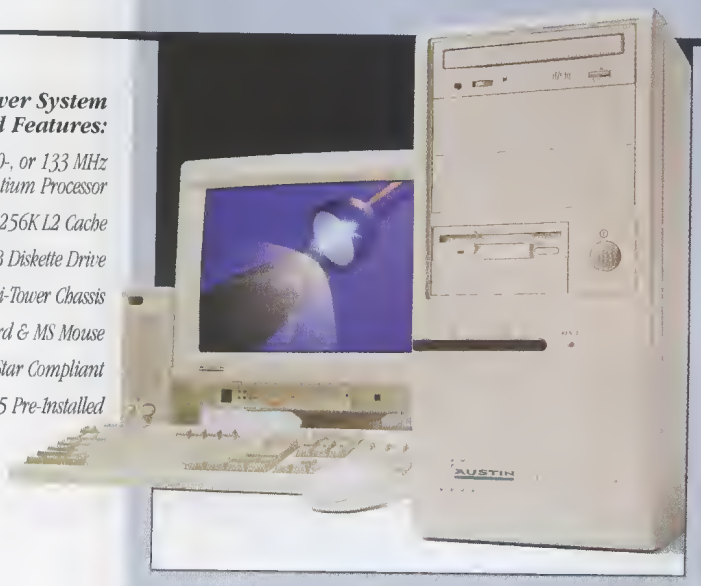

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64-Bit PCI Video, MPEG 1M EDO DRAM

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Business Lease. ***$52 / month***

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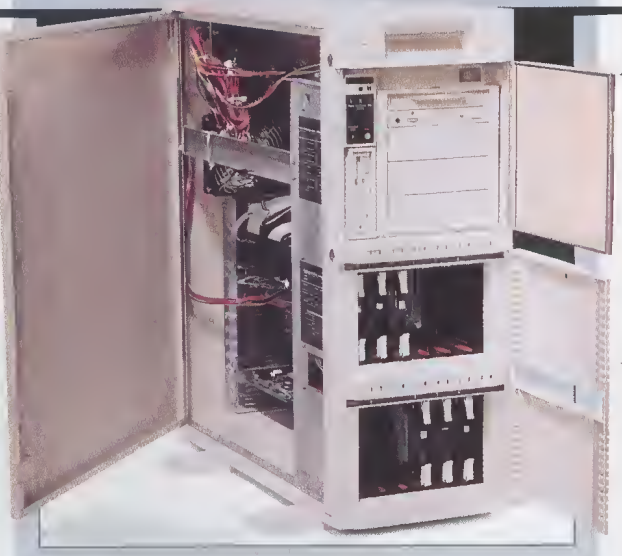
4X SCSI CD-ROM Drive
16 Bit ISA Video
3.5" 1.44MB Diskette Drive
10Base-T PCI Network Adapter
3 ISA, 3 PCI Expansion Slots
Tower Chassis (26"H x 10" W x 25.5"D)
300W Power Supply
101-Key Keyboard
Three-Year Parts & Labor Warranty
One-Year On-Site Service

Austin Affinity XE and XE Pro Standard Features:

512K L2 Cache
Mylex PCI RAID Controller
4X SCSI CD-ROM Drive
3.5" 1.44MB Diskette Drive
16-Bit ISA Video
100Base-T PCI Network Adapter
Affinity XE: 6 EISA, 4 PCI Expansion Slots
Affinity XE Pro: 4 EISA, 6 PCI Expansion Slots
Tower Chassis (26"H x 10" W x 25.5"D)
500W Power Supply
101-Key Keyboard
Three-Year Parts & Labor Warranty
One-Year On-Site Service
Mylex Array Management Software and Austin's Novell NetWare Pre-Installed



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Austin gives you a choice in the Affinity server line, with the Austin Affinity XR, the Affinity XE, and the Affinity XE Pro. For maximum flexibility, the Affinity chassis is designed with up to 12 hot-swappable 2GB, 7200RPM hard drives and an enhanced, nine-fan cooling system. Each Affinity server offers easy access to internal components and comes complete ***with advanced server management software.***

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Austin Affinity XE-Pro

180MHz Dual Pentium Processor
128MB RAM – Expandable to 1GB
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32MB	501567-001	$759	64MB	501568-001	$2,199

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4MB	147522-001	$79	8MB	147523-001	$159
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4MB	141684-001	$89	8MB	141685-001	$179
16MB	149320-001	$369	32MB	149147-001	$759

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8MB	n/a	$159	8MB	(EDO) n/a	$179
16MB	n/a	$329	16MB	(EDO) n/a	$469
32MB	n/a	$759	32MB	(EDO) n/a	$959

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PS-166XL, P5 166, P5-150, P5 133 P5-120 P575 P575 Family PC, P5-100 Fam PC, P5-120 Family PC, P5-133 Fam PC

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16MB	n/a	$329	32MB	n/a	$759

Aptiva 300, 500 and 700 series

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Eduquest 30, 40 and 50 models

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Valuepoint Performance models

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PS/1 Consultant, Essential Expert models

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PS/2 70-A21 A61, B21, B61 PS/Valuepoint Cxx models PS/1 Consultant, Essential, Expert models

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PS/2 35SX, LS, 40SX, PS/Valuepoint

8MB	6450129	$179

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2MB	6450902	$85

PS/2 90 XP, 95 XP P75 (pairs) 56, 57 (all models) PS/1 Consultant, Essential, Expert models, PS/1 Pro M2123

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2MB	6450379	$88

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Expansion boards for PS/2 80386 based models

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16MB	n/a	$329	32MB	n/a	$759

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32k x 9 20ns DIP	$4.00
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Model	MB	Part No.	Price
Contura Aero (PRICE DROP!)	4MB	190532-001	$125
	8MB	190597-001	$225
	16MB	190598-001	$459
Contura 4/25, 4/33	4MB	144790-001	$125
	8MB	144790-002	$225
	16MB	144790-003	$459
LTE Elite 4/40 4/50, 4/75	4MB	199013-001	$125
	8MB	199015-001	$225
	16MB	199017-001	$579
Contura 400, 410, 420, 430	4MB	147653-001	$125
	8MB	147655-001	$225
	16MB	147657-001	$619
Elite 5000 (PRICE DROP!)	8MB	213515-001	$225
	16MB	213515-002	$459
	32MB	213515-003	$999
	64MB	213515-004	$2,039

DELL

Model	MB	Part No.	Price
Latitude XPi, P75, P90	8MB	310-3435	$259
	16MB	310-3436	$579

IBM

Model	MB	Part No.	Price
ThinkPad 360 (PRICE DROP!)	4MB	84G5689	$125
	8MB	84G5692	$225
	16MB	84G5995	$459
ThinkPad 365, 365CD	4MB	92G7287	$151
	16MB	92G7293	$599
ThinkPad 701	4MB	04H6193	$125
	8MB	04H6194	$225
	16MB	04H6195	$459
ThinkPad 700, 720	4MB	07G1419	$125
	8MB	07G1420	$225
	16MB	07G1421	$579
ThinkPad 760, 760CD	8MB	92G7316	$322
	16MB	92G7316	$599

NEC

Model	MB	Part No.	Price
Versa S, Versa 2000 (PRICE DROP!)	4MB	OP-410-1201	$125
	8MB	OP-410-1202	$225
	16MB	OP-410-1203	$599
Versa V M, P 4000 (PRICE DROP!)	4MB	OP-410-4001	$125
4050, 4080	8MB	OP-410-4002	$225
	16MB	OP-410-4003	$459
	32MB	OP-410-4004	$999

WHY ADD MORE MEMORY?

Microsoft®

"We recommend 16MB of RAM (for Windows 3.1 or Windows 95), particularly if you plan to run multiple applications."

PC Magazine, May 16, 1995

DIGITAL

Model	MB	Part No.	Price
HiNote	4MB	FR-PCF7M-AA	$141
	8MB	FR-PCF7M-AB	$265
	16MB	FR-PCF7M-AC	$579
HiNote Ultra	4MB	FR-PCP8M-AA	$141
	8MB	FR-PCP8M-AB	$265
	16MB	FR-PCP8M-AC	$579

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

Model	MB	Part No.	Price
Extensa 450 (PRICE DROP!)	4MB	9803932-0001	$151
	8MB	9803950-0001	$309
	16MB	9803933-0001	$599
Extensa 550 550CD, 560, 560CD	8MB	9809810-0001	$285
	16MB	9804841-0001	$599
	32MB	9809811-0001	$1,139
TM5000, 5010, 5030 5100, 5200 TM 4000M (PRICE DROP!)	8MB	9798816-0001	$303
	16MB	9798816-0002	$719
	4MB	979335T	$171
	16MB	979335B	$759

TOSHIBA

Model	MB	Part No.	Price
T2100, T2105 T2110 T2115 T2130 T2135 T2150, T2155 (PRICE DROP!)	4MB	NW2026U	$125
	8MB	NW2027U	$225
	16MB	NW2028U	$425
	24MB	NW2029U	$859
T1900 T4600, T4700, T4800, T4850 T4900 (PRICE DROP!)	4MB	PC-PA2012U	$140
	8MB	PC-PA2013U	$249
	16MB	PC-PA2014U	$599
	32MB	PC-PA2015U	$1,139
T3400, T3600 (PRICE DROP!)	4MB	PC-PA2019U	$141
	8MB	PC-PA2020U	$269
	16MB	PC-PA2023U	$549
T400, T405 T410, T415, T610 Portege T100, T105 (PRICE DROP!)	8MB	NW2031U	$279
	16MB	NW2032U	$459
	32MB	NW2034U	$829
Tecra 700, 720CDT (PRICE DROP!)	8MB	NW2035U	$409
	16MB	NW2036U	$909
	32MB	NW2037U	$1,799

AST

Model	MB	Part No.	Price
Ascentia 800N, 810N (PRICE DROP!)	4MB	501488-001	$125
	8MB	501488-002	$225
	16MB	501488-003	$459
Ascentia 900N 910N (PRICE DROP!)	4MB	501392-001	$125
	8MB	501392-002	$225
	16MB	501392-003	$459
Ascentia 950N (PRICE DROP!)	8MB	501728-002	$289
	16MB	501728-003	$599

LASER PRINTER MEMORY

HP LaserJet 4L					
1MB	C2024A				$48
HP LaserJet 5L					
1MB	C3939A	$50	2MB	C3147A	$79
4MB	C3148A	$129	8MB	n/a	$239
HP LaserJet IIP III IIIP IIID					
2MB	33475B	$79	4MB	33477B	$129
HP LaserJet II IID					
2MB	33444B	$79	4MB	33445B	$129
HP LaserJet IIsi 4 4M 4Si 4SiMX XL300, DeskJet 1200c					
1MB	C2063A	$48	2MB	C2064A	$89
4MB	C2065A	$99	8MB	C2066A	$199
HP LaserJet 4P 4MP Color LaserJet					
2MB	C3131A	$79	4MB	C3132A	$99
HP DeskJet 500 500C 520 520C, 550C, 560 560C					
256K	22707B				$40
HP DesignJet 5P, 5MP					
4MB	C3132A	$99	8MB	C3133A	$199
Okidata OL400					
1MB	70014701				$79
2MB	n/a				$129
Okidata OL400E					
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EZ135 135mb cartrige	$19

HEWLETT PACKARD

Surestore CD-Writer 4X-R 2X-W 4020i	$999
RCD 74 blank CD 74 single unit	$21

IOMEGA

Zip Drive 100mb Int/Ext/Parallel	$199
Jaz Drive 1GB SCSI Int/Ext	$474/$568
Zip PC 100MB single 100mb pre-formatted for pc	$19
Jaz 540MB 3.5 single pack	$69
Jaz 1GB 3.5 single pack	$119

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3COM Multiple packs available

Etherlink IIIb ENET ISA-16 10mbs rj45 aui tp	$104
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Etherlink III ENET PCI 10mbs rj45 no-aui tpo	$124
Etherlink III ENET PCI 10mbs rj45 bnc aui combo	$166
Etherlink III ENET PCMCIA 10mbs rj45 6ft cable	$158

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Ethernexpress Pro/10 10bt 10BT, thin flash upgd	$103
Ethernexpress Pro/10 16bit 10BT, thin/thick flash upgd	$117
Ethernexpress Pro/10 PCI ENET 32bit tp only	$141
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Ethernexpress Pro 10/100 PCI ENET 32bit 10bt	$219
Ethernexpress hubs	Call

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MULTIMEDIA

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Blaster CD 4X/6X/8X	$129/$199/$239
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Hi Winturbo 2mb	$270
Hi Graphics Pro Turbo 2mb/4mb	$317/$446
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Diamond Stealth 64 3200/3240	$258/$340
Diamond Stealth 64 3400XL	$493
Creative Labs 3D Blaster	$321
Jazz Multimedia Jakarta MPEG	$371
Jazz 3D Magic	$209
Matrox MGA Millennium 3D 2mb/4mb	$312/$452
Number 9 9FX Vision 330 1mb/2mb	$132/$177
Number 9 9FX Motion 531 1mb/2mb	$177/$220
Number 9 9FX Motion 771 2mb/4mb	$291/$441
Number 9 Imagine 128 2mb/4mb	$486/$822

MONITORS

NEC

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Multisync M500 15" 25mm 1280x1024ni 65hz flat	$571
Multisync M700 17" 25mm 1280x1024ni 65hz flat	$857
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Multisync XE17 17" 28mm 1024x768ni 60hz flat	$1,008
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MicroScan 17X 17" 28mm 1024x768ni flat MPRII	$898

NOKIA

Energy 17" multi 28mm 1024x768ni flat MPRII	$685

VIEWSONIC

Viewsonic 17GS 17" 27mm 1280x1024ni flat	$684
Viewsonic 17GA 17" 27mm 1024x768ni flat spk	$772
Viewsonic 17PS 17" 25mm 1600x1280ni 60hz flat	$859

GOLDSTAR

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Multimedia 1527 15" 28mm 1280x1024ni flat MPRII	$409

CD-ROM

GoldStar 6X, Int EIDE	$109
TEAC 6X, Int EIDE Kit	$199
Toshiba 6X, Int EIDE Kit	$136
Toshiba 6X, SCSI Int /Ext	$267/$336
Nec 6X, SCSI Int /Ext	$341/$486
Nec 4x4 EIDE, Int	$271
Nec Multimedia 4V Internal SCSI/EIDE	$167/$79
Plextor 4Plex Plus 4X, SCSI Int /Ext	$258/$340
Plextor 6X, SCSI Int /Ext	$305/$387
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Panasonic 4X Portable PCMCIA	$392

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1.7GB FAST ATA2	$280	2.6GB FAST-ATA2	$405

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AVA-1515 kit SCSI2 16bit no flap w/cable w/sw lite	$85
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NOTEBOOKS

AST

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Ascentia J10, Pentium/75, 8MB 10.4" DS, 800MB	$2,311
Ascentia J30, Pentium/100, 8MB, 10.4" DS, 800MB	$2,599
Ascentia J30, Pentium/100, 8MB, 10.4" Active, 800MB	$2,799
Ascentia J50, Pentium/133, 8MB 10.4" Active, 800MB	$3,255
Ascentia P*, Pentium/100, 8MB, 11.3" DS, 800MB	$3,255
Ascentia P* Pentium/100, 8MB, 11.3" DS, 1.2GB	$3,719
Ascentia P*, Pentium/133, 8MB, 11.3" Active, 800MB	$4,185
Ascentia P*, Pentium/133, 8MB, 11.3" Active, 1.2GB	$4,649

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T410CS, Pentium/90, 8MB MO, 11.3"DS, 810MB	$3,099
T410CDT, Pentium/90, 8MB MO, 11.3" Active, 810MB, CD-ROM	$4,261
T610CT Pentium/90, 8MB MO 9.5"Active, 720MB	$3,874
Tecra 700CS, Pentium/120, 8MB MO, 11.3" DS, 1.26GB	$3,874
Tecra 700CDT Pentium/120, 16MB MO, 11.3"Active, 1.26GB	$4,842
Tecra 720CDT Pentium/133, 16MB MO 12.1"Active, 1.26GB	$7,264

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

Extensa 450T, 486DX4/75 4MB 9.5"Active 340MB	$1,465
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Extensa 560CDT, Pentium/75 8MB, 10.4" Active 1.2GB	$3,713
TMS100, Pentium/90, 8MB, 10.4"Active, 1.2GB	$3,712
TMS200, Pentium/120 8MB, 10.4"Active, 1.2GB	$4,309
TMS300, Pentium/133, 8MB, 11.3"Active, 1.2GB	$5,375

NEC

Versa 2200C, Pentium/75 8MB 9.5" Active, 810MB	$2,278
Versa 4000C, Pentium/75, 8MB, 10.1"Active 540MB	$3,618
Versa 4050C Pentium/90, 8MB 10.1"Active 810MB	$4,284
Versa 4050HC, Pentium/90, 8MB, 10.4"Active, 810MB	$4,284
Versa 4080HC, Pentium/120, 8MB, 10.4" Active, 1GB	$4,760

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XIRCOM

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OKIDATA

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OL610e	$488	OL810e	$755
OL1200	$1,098		

EPSON

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Stylus Color II Inkjet	$282	Stylus Color Pro inkjet	$465
Stylus 1500 Inkjet	$878	Stylus Clr Pro XL inkjet	$1,694

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

MicroLaser WIN/	$422	MicroLaser 600	$844
MicroLaser Pro/8	$1,097	MicroLaser Pro/12	$1,350

HEWLETT-PACKARD

Deskjet 340	$296	Deskjet 600	$203
Deskjet 660c	$354	Deskjet 850c	$501
Laserjet 5LFS	$504	Laserjet 5P	$874
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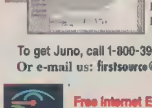

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Elite 2864 28.8 ext, v.34 upg to isdn	$427
Elite 2864i+s/t isdn 128kbps 2 wire leased led	$541

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VP32210S	2 2GB	8 5MS	SCSI	638 781
TRAIL BLAZER SERIES-3 YEAR WAR.				**INT-EXT**
30850TRA	850MB	12MS	IDE	193-343
30850TRS	850MB	12MS	F SCSI 2	197-223
ATLAS SCSI 2 SERIES-5 YEAR WAR				**INT-EXT**
XP32150S	2 1GB	8MS	7200RPM	712 975
XP34300S	4.2GB	8MS	7200RPM	1018-1170
GRAND PRIX SCSI 2 SERIES-5 YEAR WAR.				**INT-EXT**
GP3401	4.3GB	8.6MS	7200RPM	941 1066
SATURN SERIES-3 YEAR WAR.				**INT-EXT**
[illegible]	2 1GB	8.0MS	SCSI	575 750

FUJITSU

FACTORY NEW-5 YEAR WARRANTY				**INT EXT**
M1614T	1 1GB	11MS	IDE	$199-349
M1606T	1 1GB	9 5MS	IDE	215-365
M1636T	1 1GB	9 5MS	IDE	248-395
M1638T	1 1GB	9 5MS	IDE	359-509
M2932S	2 1GB	10MS	SCSI	579-704
M1638S	2 2GB	10MS	SCSI	595-710
[illegible]	4 3GB	10MS	SCSI	899 1024

digital

FACTORY NEW-2 YEAR WARRANTY				**INT EXT**
DSP3210	2GB	9 5MS	SCSI	$799 949

MICROPOLIS

FACTORY NEW-5 YEAR WARRANTY				**INT EXT**
MC2210A	1 05GB	10MS	IDE	$349 499
MC4110	1 05GB	9MS	SCSI-2	500-625
MC4221	2 05GB	8 5MS	SCSI-2	529-654
MC1936	3 0GB	11MS	SCSI-2	850-999
MC3243	4 3GB	8MS	SCSI-2	819-1034
MC2217AV	1 75GB	10MS	SCSI AV	650-775
MC4221AV	2 05GB	8 5MS	SCSI AV	679-804
MC3243AV	4 3GB	8 5MS	SCSI AV	999-1149
MC1991AV	9 1GB	10MS	SCSI AV	1999-2149

CONNER

FACTORY NEW-2 YEAR WARRANTY				**INT EXT**
CFS635A	635MB	14MS	IDE	$179-329
CFS850A	850MB	14MS	IDE	190-340
CFS1275A	1 3GB	14MS	IDE	229-358
CFS1621A	1 6MB	14MS	IDE	262 412
CFP1060S	1 06GB	11MS	SCSI-2	239-364
CFP2105S	2 1GB	9MS	SCSI-2	595 734
CFP2107S	2 1GB	9MS	SCSI-2	639-764
CFP4207S	4 2GB	9MS	SCSI 2	925 1064

WESTERN DIGITAL

FACTORY NEW-3 YEAR WARRANTY				**INT EXT**
WDAC2635	639MB	11MS	IDE	$179 329
WDAC2850	850MB	10MS	IDE	190-340
WDAC21000A	1 1GB	10MS	IDE	210-360
WDAC31200	1 2GB	10MS	IDE	229 379
WDAC31200A	1 2GB	10MS	IDE	215 365
WDAC31600	1 6GB	10MS	IDE	275-425
WDAC31200	1 2GB	10MS	IDE	355-505
WDAC32500	1 2GB	10MS	IDE	395 545

HEWLETT PACKARD

FACTORY NEW-5 YEAR WARRANTY				**INT-EXT**
C3725S	2 1GB	9 5MS	SCSI	$595 759

NEC

FACTORY NEW-3 YEAR WARRANTY				**INT EXT**
D3727	1 1GB	11MS	IDE	$245 395

Seagate

FACTORY NEW 1-5 YEAR WARRANTY				**INT EXT**
ST3850A	850MB	14MS	IDE	$179-328
ST5850A	850MB	11MS	IDE	195-345
ST51080A	1 05GB	10 5MS	IDE	217-357
ST31270A	1 3GB	12MS	IDE	239-389
ST51270A	1 3GB	10 5MS	IDE	249 399
ST31640A	1 6GB	10 5MS	IDE	309-459
ST32140A	2 2GB	10MS	IDE	350-500
ST51080N	1 05GB	10 5MS	SCSI 2	262-387
ST12400N	2 1GB	9MS	SCSI-2	595-775
ST32430N	2 1GB	10MS	SCSI 2	599-724
ST43400N	3 5GB	11MS	SCSI-2	595-775
ST15230N	4 2GB	9MS	SCSI-2	915-1040
ST410800N	9 0GB	11MS	SCSI-2	1975-2100
SCSI-BARRACUDA-7200 RPM				**INT EXT**
ST32550N	2 1GB	8MS	SCSI-2	689-815
ST15150N	4 2GB	8MS	SCSI-2	1099-1225

IBM STANDARD & PS2

STANDARD			**INT EXT**
1 0GB	10MS	SCSI	$280-405
2 1GB	7 5MS	SCSI	799-924
4 3GB	11MS	SCSI	750-875
1 05GB	10 5MS	IDE	289-318
PS/2 50, 5RZ, 60, 70, 80, P70, 50SX			
630MB	12MS	IDE	398
1 2GB	12MS	SCSI	499
MICROCHANNEL CONTROLLER			
IDE	169	SCSI-2	$178
IBM PS/2 INTERNAL DRIVE KITS			
3R-RRRR, 3R-2RR, 28-R000, 25-2R0			
630MB		IDE	348
1 0GB		IDE	399

Maxtor

FACTORY NEW 2 YEAR WARRANTY				**INT EXT**
M71084A	1 1GB	14MS	IDE	$209 359
M71260AV	1 2GB	12MS	IDE	242-392
M71626AP	1 8GB	12MS	IDE	262-412

WIDE SCSI HARD DRIVES

CONNER

FACTORY NEW-5 YEAR WARRANTY				
2105W	2 1GB	8 5MS	5400RPM	739
2107W	2 1GB	8 5MS	7200RPM	776
4207W	4 2GB	9MS	7200RPM	1231

Seagate

FACTORY NEW-5 YEAR WARRANTY				
ST31230W	1 0GB	9MS	3 5X1"	$536
ST32550W	2 1GB	8MS	3 5X1"	799
ST15230W	4 3GB	9MS	3 5X1"	1042
ST15150W	4 3GB	8MS	3 5"	1199
ST410800W	9 0GB	11MS	5 25"	2099

Quantum

FACTORY NEW-5 YEAR WARRANTY				
XP32150W	2 1GB	8MS	3 5X1	$840
VP32210W	2 2GB	8 5MS	3 5X1'	718
GP3430W	4 3GB	8 6MS	3 5"	1078
XP34300W	4 3GB	8MS	3 5"	1199

MICROPOLIS

FACTORY NEW-5 YEAR WARRANTY				
MC4221W	2 05GB	8 5MS	LP3 5	$745
MC3243W	4 30GB	8 5MS	3 5	1069
MC1991W	9 10GB	10MS	FH	1999
WIDE AUDIO VISUAL TUNED DRIVES				
MC4221WAV	2 05GB	8 5MS	LP3 5	$749
MC3243WAV	4 30GB	8 5MS	3 5	1099
MC1991WAV	9 10GB	10MS	FH	2099

NOTEBOOK HARD DRIVES

TOSHIBA

NOTEBOOK DRIVES/1 YEAR WARRANTY 1/2 2.5"				
MK1924FCB	524MB	15MS	IDE	$349
MK1924FCV	540MB	15MS	SCSI	449
MK1926FCV	810MB	13MS	IDE	399
MK2720FC	1 3GB	13MS	IDE	595

IBM

IBMHDN520	520MB	IDE	$300

Seagate

ST9546AG	524MB	16MS	$329
ST9816AG	810MB	16MS	476

FLOPPY DRIVES

TEAC

1 44MB 3 5"/ w/brackets	$35-42
1 2MB, 5 25	45
DUAL FLOPPY 1 44MB & 1 2MB	99

MITSUMI

MIT14 3 5 1 44MB / w/brackets	$28 35

SCSI & CPU CASES

Hall HI 3 5 IDE Drives parallel port	$140
Hall HI 5 25" or 3 5" Devices (1Bay) SCSI	99
Hall HI for CD ROM s w/Audio Jacks SCSI	99
5 25 Full Ht (1) FH or (2) HH Devices (2 Bay) SCSI	149
5 25' Double Full Ht (2) FH Devices (4 Bay) SCSI	249
5 25" 3 Full Ht & 1HH or 7HH Devices (7 Bay) SCSI	349
3 50' HH (4Bays) 3 5" Devices SCSI	299
DESKTOP CASE, 230 w/ps 4 Bays	65
MINI TOWER 230 w/ps 5 Bays	65
MID TOWER, 230 w/ps 6 Bays	95
FULL TOWER, 230 w/ps 7 Bays	125
SUPER TOWER 300 w/ps 9 Bays	250

REMOVABLES/OPTICALS

SYQUEST

REMOVABLE CARTRIDGE DRIVES

270MB SCSI INT/EXT	$375-495
270MB CART SINGLES/5 PACK	73-350
270 PARALLEL PORT	549
270MB INTERNAL IDE	375
CARTS 44MB/88MB	54-69
CARTS 105MB/200MB	75-85
5200 200MB INT/EXT	399-599

FUJITSU

REWRITABLE EXTERNAL OPTICAL DRIVES

230MB 3 5 OPTICAL DRIVE INT/EXT	$499-579
230MB CARTRIDGE 1 PACK $35 5 PACK	$170

NETWORKING TERMINALS

Terminal Keyboard	$145
Wyse 60 amber/green/white	399
Wyse 160 amber/green white	429

KEYBOARDS

MITSUMI 101	$25
FOCUS 2001 W/COVER	40
FOCUS 7200 KEYTRACK	59
FOCUS 9000 PROGRAMMABLE	65

MOUSES

2 BUTTON 3 BUTTON MICROSOFT	$20 30 35

CPU FANS

486 & PENTIUM CPU FANS	$15

MEMORY

FOR PC's, WORKSTATIONS, PORTABLES & PRINTERS

SIMMS

LIFETIME WARRANTY

ALR · APPLE · AST · AT&T · BROTHER · CANON · COMPAQ · DELL · DIGITAL · EPSON · EVEREX · HEWLETT-PACKARD · IBM · LEXMARK · NEC · OKIDATA · PANASONIC · SHARP · SUN · SILICON GRAPHICS · TEXAS INST. · TOSHIBA · SRAM · FLASH

30 PIN PARITY/9-BIT	
4MB X 9-70NS SIMM 3 CHIP	$09
4MB X 0-00NS SIMM 3 CHIP	09
4MB X9-00NS SIMM 3 CHIP LOGIC	79
4MB X0-70NS SIMM 3 CHIP LOGIC	79
4MB X 9-60NS SIMM 9 CHIP	99
4MB X 9-70NS SIMM 9 CHIP	99
4MB X 9-60NS SIMM 9 CHIP	99
1MB X 9-100NS 0 CHIP SIMM	28
1MB X 0-90NS 3 CHIP SIMM	25
1MB X 9-90NS 9 CHIP SIMM	25
1MB X 9-70NS 3 CHIP SIMM	30
1MB X 9-70NS 9 CHIP SIMM	30
1MB X 9-60NS 3 CHIP SIMM	30
1MB X 9-60NS 9 CHIP SIMM	30
16MB X 9-70NS/60NS SIMM	450
256K X 9-80NS/70NS SIMM	12
30 PIN NON-PARITY/8 BIT	
1MB X 8-60NS SIMM	25
1MB X 8-70NS SIMM	25
4MB X 8-60NS SIMM	89
4MB X 8-70NS SIMM	89
4MB X 8-60NS SIMM	89
30 PIN 9 BIT SIPPS	
1MB X 9-100NS SIPP	30
1MB X 9-80NS SIPP	40
1MB X 9-70NS SIPP	40
1MB X 9-60NS SIPP	40
256K X 9-70NS SIPP	15
72 PIN MEMORY	
256 X 36-1MB-70NS	25
512 X 36-2MB-70NS	50
512 X 36-2MB-80NS	50
1X36-4MB-70NS/60NS LOGIC	85
1X36-4MB-70NS/60NS MAJOR	99
2X36-8MB-70NS/60NS LOGIC	170
2X36-8MB-70NS/60NS MAJOR	199
4X36-16MB-70NS/60NS LOGIC	295
4X36-16MB-70NS/60NS MAJOR	325
8X36-32MB-70NS LOGIC	550
8X36-32MB-60NS LOGIC	550
8X36-32MB-70NS MAJOR	650
8X36-32MB-60NS MAJOR	650
16X36-64MB-70NS/60NS	1995
EDO MEMORY	
4MB/8MB EDO	85 170
16MB/32MB EDO	350/700
1 X 32-4MB-70NS/60NS	75
2 X 32-8MB-70NS/60NS	150
4 X 32-16MB-70NS/60NS	275
8 X 32-32MB-70NS/60NS	550

VIDEO BOARDS

DIAMOND MULTIMEDIA

Stealth SE 2MB PCI VLB	$105
SpeedstarStar 64 Graphics 2120 ISA 1MB	119
SpeedstarStar 64 Graphics 2220 ISA 2MB	175
Stealth 64 2120XL DRAM 1MB PCI VLB	149
Stealth 64 2220XL DRAM 2MB PCI VLB	195
Stealth 64 Video 2121 DRAM 1MB PCI	149
Stealth 64 Video 2201 DRAM 2MB PCI	199
Stealth 64 Video 2121TV DRAM 1MB PCI	249
Stealth 64 Video 2121TV DRAM 2MB PCI	305
Stealth 64 Video 3240XL VRAM 2MB PCI	339
Stealth 64 Video 3240XL VRAM 2MB VLB	339
Stealth 64 Video 3240XL VRAM 4MB VLB	489
Edge 3D 2120XL DRAM 1MB PCI	229
Edge 3D 3240XL DRAM 2MB PCI	405

ATI SPECIAL VIDEO BOARD WINTURBO ISA, VRAM 2MB, 64 BIT. $199

ATI Graphics Xpression 2MB ISA VLB PCI	$199
ATI WinTurbo VRAM 2MB ISA VLB PCI	245
Graphics Pro Turbo 2MB ISA PCI	258
Graphics Pro Turbo 4MB ISA VLB PCI	399

BOCA RESEARCH INC

Voyager 1MB VL Bus	$99
Voyager 2MB VL Bus	165

#9GXE Number Nine Computer Corporation

9FX Vision 330 1MB DRAM PCI VLB	$139
9FX Vision 330 2MB DRAM PCI VLB	178
9FX Motion 531 1MB DRAM PCI VLB	179
9FX Motion 531 2MB DRAM PCI VLB	225
9FX Motion 771 2MB VRAM PCI VLB	295
9FX Motion 771 4MB VRAM PCI VLB	445
9GXE Pro 1600 2 MB VRAM PCI VLB	549
9GXE Pro 1600 4 MB VRAM PCI VLB	719
Imagine 128 4MB VRAM	599
Imagine 128 8MB VRAM	1299

TRIDENT

SVGA 1024 X 768 1MB VLB VGA card	98

SVGA

SVGA 256K ISA	$38
SVGA 512K 1024 X 768 ISA	50
SVGA 1MB 1024 X 768 ISA	68

TAPE BACKUPS

MicroSolutions

BACKPACKS

QUAD SPD PARALLEL PORT CD ROM DRIVE	$399
DISKETTE DRV 1 2 5 25 DSKTTE DRV 1 4 3 5	175
8000TD BACKPACK 800MB TAPE DRIVE	155
BACKPACK 420MB HARD DRIVE	489

COLORADO MEMORY SYSTEMS

Jumbo 1400 Internal	$229
HP Colorado T1000	174
PT10 1 0GB SCSI-2 1/4	626-751
PT25 2 0GB SCSI 2 1/4"	936-1061
PT50 4 0GB SCSI-2 1/4"	1151-2176
PT80 2 4GB SCSI 2 DAT	994-1114

EXABYTE

4200C 1GB TAPE INT/EXT	$799-950
8205XL 3 5 7GB TAPE INT/EXT	1276-1449
8505XL 7 14GB TAPE INT/EXT	1898-2198

HEWLETT PACKARD

C1534A 2 0GB TAPE INT/EXT	$662-762
35470A 2 0GB TAPE INT/EXT	749 849
1538 4GB TAPE INT/EXT	789-890
1533 4-8GB TAPE INT/EXT	889-1089
4MM 90MT DAT CART (1/5 PK)	12 65
4MM 120MT DAT CART (1/5PAK)	35-170
3 5" 5 25" CONVERSION KIT 1533	39
3 5" 5 25" CONVERSION KIT 1536	39
3 5"-5 25 CONVERSION KIT 1534A	39
3 5"-5 25" CONVERSION KIT 35470A	39

IOMEGA

Bernoulli 230MB Insider SCSI	474
Bernoulli 230MB Transportable SCSI	474
90 MB/150MB/230MB Cartridge	89

CONNER

TapeStor 250MB Parellel Port	$199
TapeStor 420MB Parellel Port	280
TapeStor 850MB Internal	188
TapeStor 850MB Parellel Port	330

CPU'S

INTEL		486DX2-66	45	PENTIUM 150	400
386DX-33	$38	486DX4-75	85	PENTIUM 166	695
486SX-25	35	486DX4-100	105	**AMD**	
486SX-33	38	PENTIUM 75	125	386DX2-66 3V	$45
486DX-25	75	PENTIUM 90	235	486DX2-80 3V	56
486DX-33	45	PENTIUM 100	245	486DX4-100	69
486DX2-50	45	PENTIUM 120	285	486D4-120	75
		PENTIUM 133	305	486DX4-133	85

CACHE MEMORY

8X8-15	$6.00	32X8-20	7.00
8X8-20	4.50	64X1-15	10.00
8X8-25	4.00	128X8-20	33.00
32X8-15	10.00	128X8-20	30.00
32X8-20	8.00	128X8-15	40.00

MATH CO-PROCESSORS

INTEL		80487DX-33 33MHZ	75	83D87DX-33 33MHZ	50
80387SX-16 16MHZ	$75	80487SX-25 25MHZ	105	83D87DX-40 40MHZ	80
80387SX-20 20MHZ	75	**CYRIX**		83S87SX-16 16MHZ	50
80387SX-25 25MHZ	70	83D87DX-16 16MHZ	50	83S87SX-20 20MHZ	60
80387DX-16 16MHZ	75	83D87DX-20 20MHZ	60	83S87SX-25 25MHZ	50
80387DX-20 20MHZ	75	83D87DX-25 25MHZ	50	82S8XL 20MHZ	[illegible]
80387DX-25 33MHZ	75				

DYNAMIC RAMS

1MB X 1-100NS	$6.00
1MB X 1-80NS	6.25
1MB X 1-70NS	6.50
1MB X 1-60NS	6.75
256K X 4-100NS	6.00
256K X 4-80NS	6.25
256K X 4-70NS	6.50
256K X 4-60NS	6.75

IBM THINKPAD

2 1/2" REMOVABLE DRIVES

755, 355, 360, 750	
524MB	$795
710MB	$895
810MB	$995
1.2GB	$1395
700, 700C, 750, 720C	
340MB	$795
524MB	$895
720MB	$1395
701C, 701CS	
540MB	$795
720MB	$895

NEC VERSA E, M, V, P

2 1/2" REMOVABLE DRIVES

524MB	$795
810MB	$895
1.2GB	$1395

CD ROMS

NEC

NEC-SPECIAL 6X Speed SCSI-INT EA $292

CDR222S	Four Speed SCSI Int	$199-325
CDR5026XI	Six Speed SCSI, Int	375
CDR6026XE	Six Speed SCSI Ext	545

DIAMOND NEW

Ultra 8X • Super fast 8X CD ROM IDE	$306

PLEXTOR

PX-43CS	Internal 4 Speed 256 Cache	$255
PX 45CS	External 4 Speed 256 Cache	329
PX-63CS	Int 6 Speed 256K Cache	299-349

PIONEER

DRM-624X	6-CD 4 4X Speed SCSI Int	$399
DRM-624X	18-Disc 4XQuadraSpin SCSI Int	1815

SONY

SONY-SPECIAL 6X Speed SCSI-SPR EA $149

CDU 55E 2X Int/Ext	$49
CDU 76S SCSI 4X Int/Ext	149 267
CDU-76 IDE 4X Int/Ext	99-224

TEAC

CD-55A	SuperQuad 4X AT Drive	$99-240
CD-56E	Six Speed Int	149-350

TOSHIBA

XM5402A	Quad Speed IDE Int/Ext	$115-239
XM3701	Six Speed SCSI Int Ext	249-380

MITSUMI

FX400B	Quad Speed Int/Ext IDE	$90-230
FX600B	Six Speed Int/Ext IDE	139-265

SCSI-IDE CABLES

HARD DRIVE EXTERNAL CABLES	
CENTRONICS 50 TO SCSI-II	$50
CENTRONICS 50 TO MAC 25 PIN	25
CENTRONICS 50 TO CENTRONICS 50 6FT	25
CENTRONICS 50 TO CENTRONICS 50 3FT	20
CENTRONICS TO DB-50	50
DB-50 TO SCSI-II	50
DB 50 TO DB 50	50
SCSI II TO SCSI II	50
FAST WIDE TO CENTRONICS EXT	99
68 PIN WIDE TO WIDE 3FT EXT	99
HARD DRIVE INTERNAL CABLES	
SCSI 50 PIN RIBBON 2 3/4 DEVICE	$10-15-20
SCSI 50-PIN RIBBON 5/6/7 DEVICE	25-30-35
SCSI FAST 68 PIN WIDE 3 CONN 2 DEVICE	65
SCSI FAST 68 PIN WIDE 5 CONN 4 DEVICE	99
SCSI FAST 68 PIN WIDE 8 CONN 7 DEVICE	139
IDE 40-PIN RIBBON 3 CONNS	9
FLOPPY & IDE CABLES SET	11
PASSIVE TERMINATOR	20
ACTIVE TERMINATOR	50

SUPER PRICE! $595

Seagate 2.1GB SCSI ST12400N HALF HEIGHT OR 3GB SCSI ST43400N HALF HEIGHT

MOTHERBOARDS

GIGABYTE GA-86ATE PENTIUM

3 PCI Slots, One PCI/ISA Shared, 3 ISA Slots, Four 72 Pin SIMMS Sockets (Supports EDO SIMMS), Triton Chipset, Floppy Port, Two FIFO Serial Ports, One ECP/EPP Parallel Port, Two IDE Interfaces (PIO Mode 3 & PIO Mode 4), Board Size: 10"x8.6"

75-$290/90-$390/100-$420/120-$465/133-$550/150-$690/166-$849

NEW! INTEL ATLANTIS PENTIUM

3 PCI, 2 ISA Shared, 1 PCI/ISA Slots, 256 Pipeline Burst Cache,4x72 Pin Sockets (up to 128MB),1MB Flash BIOS, Intel Triton Chipset, Integrated PCI/IDE, Intergrated Super I/O, Integrated ATI Video Card, PC'95 Compliant w/Windows '95 Plug & Play

75-$519/100-$629/120-$689/133-$769/150-$899/160-$1149

INTEL ENDEAVOR PENTIUM

[illegible] Pipelined Burst Cache On Board (Upgradable to 512K), built-in Creative Labs Vibra 16S Sound Chip (no need for a seperate sound card), Floppy Port, Two FIFO Serial Ports, One EPP/ECP Parallel Port, Two IDE Interfaces PIO Mode 3 & PIO Mode 4, Triton PCI Coast Chipset, board Size: 8.6"x13"

75-$389/90-$479/100-$499/120-$559/133-$639/150-$769/166-$1019

INTEL-486-PENTIUM

	MOTHER-BOARD	MOTHER BOARD WITH CPU
PENTIUM-75	$169	$269
PENTIUM-90	169	385
PENTIUM-100	169	399
PENTIUM-120	169	430
PENTIUM-133	169	489
PENTIUM-150	169	635
PENTIUM-166	169	789
486SX-33	125	135
486DX-33	125	145
486DX2-66	125	155
486DX4-100	125	249

Pentium boards: 256K CACHE, 3-PCI SLOTS, 3 ISA, 256 PIPELINE CACHE BURST, 1PCI-ISA SHARED FLASH BIOS, 4-72PIN, UP TO 128 RAM. ADD $10 FOR CPU FAN

486 boards: 256C VLB, 7-ISA 2-VLB, 8-30 PIN OR 4-30 PIN & 2-72 PIN OR 4-72 PIN, 8-30 PIN & 2-72 PIN, ENHANCED BIOS

PROCESSOR UPGRADES

TURN YOUR 386 INTO A 486

Cyrix $199
386SX system, use [illegible]
386DX-16 system, use [illegible]
386DX-20 system, use [illegible]
386DX-25 system, use [illegible]
386DX-33 system, use [illegible]

INTEL OverDrive PROCESSORS
DX2/RR ODP/ODPR .$127 — Pentium 63 ..$178
DX2/7R ODP/ODPR ...149 — Pentium 83 290
DX4/100 ODP/ODPR .187

SCSI-IDE CONTROLLERS

adaptec

1505	CD ROM 16-Bit SCSI Kit	$47
1515	16 Bit ISA SCSI 2 KIT	82
1520	16 Bit ISA SCSI 2 (7 DEVICE CARD)	98
1522	16 Bit 7HD/2FD KIT	136
1522	16 Bit 7HD/2FD Card Only	119
1530PK	16 Bit ISA to FAST SCSI-II Kit	189
1542	Bus MasterCard Only	199
1542CPK	Bus Master Kit	245
1640K	MicroChannel for PS/2 7HD	345
2940K	32-Bit PCI SCSI-2 Kit	238
2940WK	32-Bit PCI Wide Kit	284
2742T	EISA KIT 14HDs	369
2742W	FAST WIDE SCSI CARD	399
2825VL	Enhanced SCSI/IDE Kit	149
2842A	VL SCSI 2 VESA	259
1460	Slim SCSI PCMCIA SCSI Card	199
3940	Dual Channel PCI Controller Kit	469
3940W	32 BIT WIDE PCI DUAL CHANNEL KIT	475
T160	16-Bit SCSI	85
T348	Parallel Port to SCSI Plus	148
T358	Parallel Port to SCSI Plus Enhanced	199

PROMISE TECHNOLOGY, INC.

IDE & SCSI CACHE CONTROLLERS		
DC200	2FD 4HD ISA (exp to 16MB)	$99
DC2300+	Enhanced IDE VLB w/16550 I/o	89
5030	32-Bit PCI BusMaster IDE Caching	159
DC440	BusMaster SCSI/IDE VLB	179
DC540	BusMaster PCI SCSI WIDE	169

gsi

HI PERFORMANCE IDE CONTROLLERS		
11	8-Bit 4FD & 250MB Tape Accel Card	$59
18	Co Exist, High Perf IDE Card	55
21	2HD 4FD (up to 2 8MB)	69
32	8Multi port IDE Flpy Tape [illegible] Accel	129

BusLogic

KT445C	32 Bit VLB Fast SCSI 2 Kit	$199
KT545C	16-Bit ISA BusMaster Fast SCSI-2 Kit	209
KT742A	32-Bit EISA SCSI 2 Kit	289
KT747C	32 Bit EISA Fast SCSI 2 Kit	299
KT757S	32 Bit EISA Fast Wide SCSI Card	349
KT946C	32 Bit PCI Fast SCSI 2 Kit	235
KT956C	32 Bit PCI Fast Wide SCSI 2 Kit	329
IDE CACHE CONTROLLERS		
KT510A	ISA/IDE Cache Controller	85
KT410A	VESA/IDE Cache Controller	125
KT910A	PCI/IDE Cache Controller	100

DATA TECHNOLGY

2278	Vesa local bus w/16550	$30
2280	Super 10 card w/16550	25
2130	PCI IDE controller	30

SUPER CONTROLLERS

IDE CONTROLLERS		
200	2HD 2FD Controller Cables	$22
211	2HD/2FD w/2 serial/1 Par/1 Game	28
243	2HD/2FD VLB EIDE w/o 2s/1p/1g	49
400	16550 2HD/2FD 2 16550 2s/1p/1g ISA	85
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90MHz Pentium

Satellite 100CS

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
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Pentium 90	11.3" Dual Scan SVGA	8/772MB	$3199
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* Features built-in 4X CD-ROM drive

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Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
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- Optional 4X CD-ROM Drive (Tecra 700)

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 120	11.3" Dual Scan SVGA	8MB/1.13GB	$3999
Pentium 120	11.3" Active SVGA	16MB/1.13GB	4999
Pentium 133	12.1" Active SVGA	16MB/1.2GB	7469*

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Pentium 120	12.1" Active SVGA	8MB/1.2GB	CALL
Pentium 133	12.1" Active SVGA	16MB/1.08GB	CALL
Pentium 133	12.1" Active SVGA	16MB/1.2GB	CALL*

* Includes built-in 4X CD-ROM drive

ThinkPad® 760EL and 760ELD

NEW!

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
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Pentium 100	12.1" Active SVGA	8/810MB	CALL*
Pentium 120	11.3" Dual Scan	8/810MB	CALL
Pentium 120	12.1" Active SVGA	8MB/1.08GB	CALL
Pentium 133	12.1" Active SVGA	16MB/1.08GB	CALL

* Includes built-in 4X CD-ROM drive

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P90	12.1" Active SVGA	8/720MB	5499
P120	12.1" Active SVGA	8/720MB	5699
P120	12.1" Active SVGA	8MB/1.0GB	5999
P90	12.1" Active SVGA	8MB/1.2GB	6699*
P120	12.1" Active SVGA	8MB/1.2GB	6899*

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ThinkPad® 760

*Features built-in 4X CD-ROM drive
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- 810MB removable hard-drive
- 32-bit Local bus graphics

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 75	9.5" Active	8/810MB	$2499

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Built-In CD-ROM

NEC Versa 4000

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Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 75	10.1" Active	8/810MB	$3799*
Pentium 90	10.4" High Res.	8/810MB	4499
Pentium 90	10.1" Active	8/810MB	4499*
Pentium 120	10.4" High Res.	8MB/1GB	4999

* Features built-in 4X CD-ROM drive

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UP TO 133MHz PENTIUM

WIN95 INSTALLED

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 100	10.4" Active SVGA	8M8/1.08G8	$3769
Pentium 120	10.4" Active SVGA	8M8/1.08G8	4059
Pentium 133	10.4" Active SVGA	8M8/1.3SG8	4439

HiNote Ultra II
Shown with optional floppy dock

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Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 100	10.4" Dual Scan SVGA	8/810MB	$2399
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*CTS 5100

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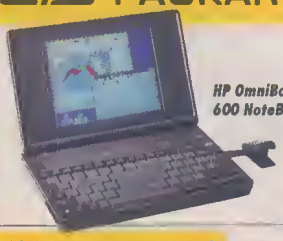

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Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
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486DX4/75	9.5" Active	8/340M8	2500

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- PCI Local bus Video, 1.5MB video memory
- 16-bit stereo sound with 2 speakers
- Optional 4X CD-ROM available

133MHz Pentium with PCI BUS

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 133	12.1" Active SVGA	16M8/1.3SG8	$6000

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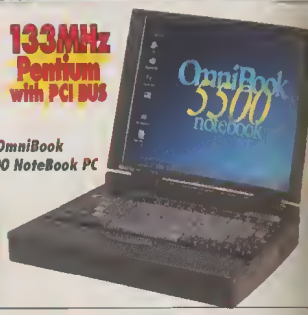

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Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 100	11.3" Dual Scan SVGA	8/800M8	$3300
Pentium 100	11.3" Dual Scan SVGA	8M8/1.2G8	3780
Pentium 133	11.3" Active SVGA	8/800M8	4250
Pentium 133	11.3" Active SVGA	8M8/1.2GB	4730

AST Ascentia J

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Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 75	10.4" Dual Scan SVGA	8/500MB	$2150
Pentium 100	10.4" Dual Scan SVGA	8/800MB	2640
Pentium 100	10.4" Active Matrix SVGA	8/800MB	2840
Pentium 133	10.4" Active Matrix SVGA	8/800MB	3300

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Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
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486DX4/100	10.4" Active	8/720M8	2939

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Pentium 75	11.3" Dual Scan	8/810M8	3210
Pentium 75	10.4" Active	8/810M8	3590
Pentium 90	10.4" Active	8/810M8	3970
Pentium 90	10.4" Active	8/810M8	4340*
Pentium 120	10.4" Active	8M8/1.3SG8	4720

* Features Built-in 4X CD-ROM drive

UP TO 120MHz PENTIUM with PCI BUS

LTE 5000

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

Extensa 510

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 100	10.4" Dual Scan	8/810M8	$2250

New Models!

Extensa 560

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Extensa 560/570 CD & CDT

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- Built-in 16-bit sound, microphone & speaker

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 75	10.4" Dual Scan	8/810M8	$2749
Pentium 75	10.4" Active	8M8/1.2G8	3699
Pentium 100	11.3" Dual Scan	8/810M8	2930
Pentium 100	10.4" Active	8M8/1.2G8	3910

TravelMate 5130/5270/5300

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 90	10.4" Active SVGA	8M8/1.2GB	$3420
Pentium 120	11.3" Active SVGA	8M8/1.2GB	4700
Pentium 133	11.3" Active SVGA	8M8/1.2GB	5390

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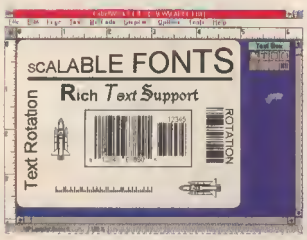

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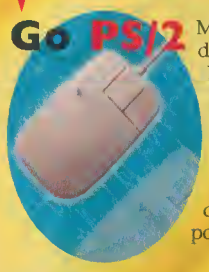

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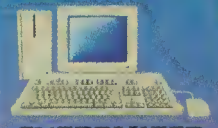

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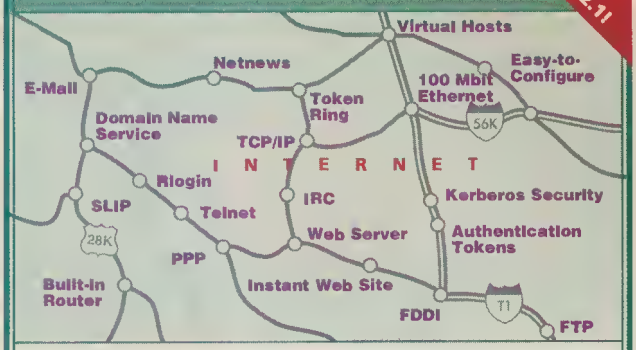

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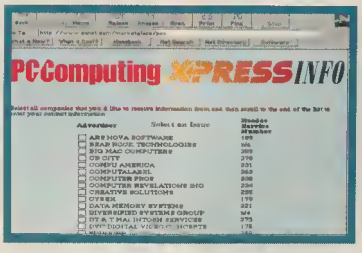

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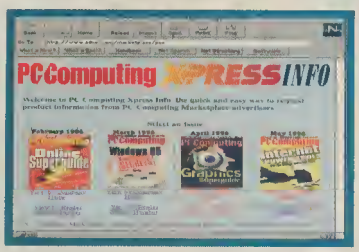

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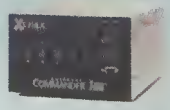

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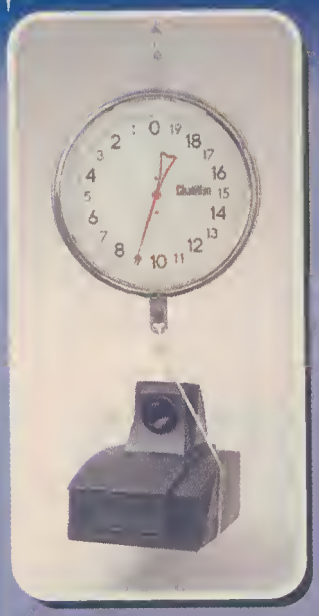

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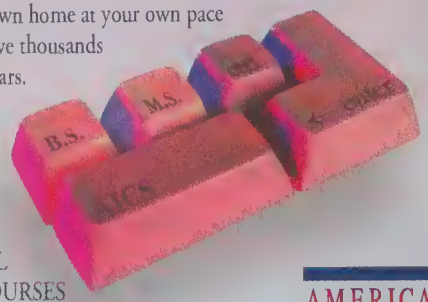

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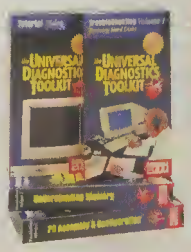

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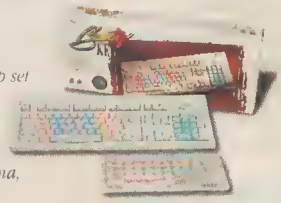

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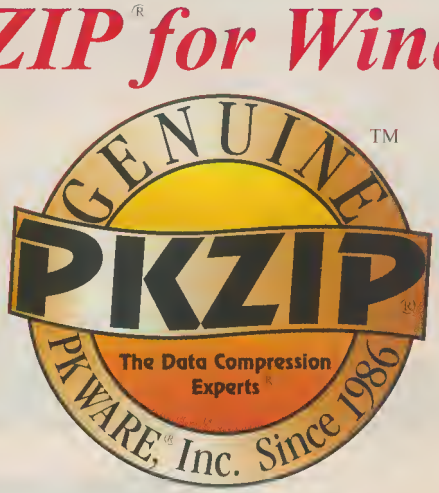

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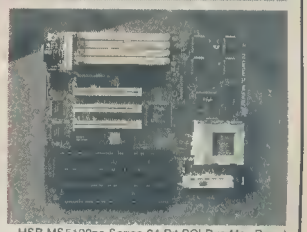

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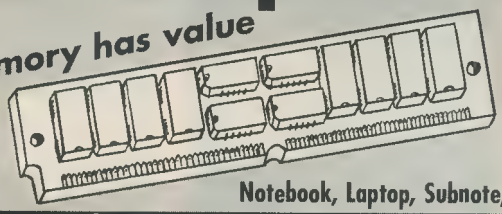

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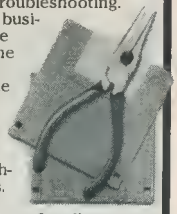

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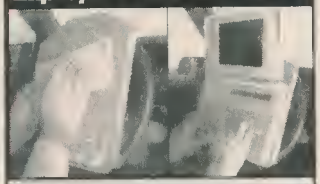
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Umax's Vista-S12 delivers everything you need to scan documents and photos, including OCR and document-management tools, Adobe's Photoshop LE, and SPC's ASAP Word Power.

Vista-S12 / Umax / (800) 562-0311 / $745 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 879*

One Connection for All

Trancell Systems' WebRamp (below) is an ideal modem for small offices. It gives every networked machine a speedy

ISDN connection—up to 128Kbps. And the box includes everything you need.

WebRamp / Trancell Systems / (408) 988-5353 / $695 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 880*

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Investor Insight / Intuit / (800) 624-8742 / $9.95 a month for up to ten securities / *Reader Service No. 881*

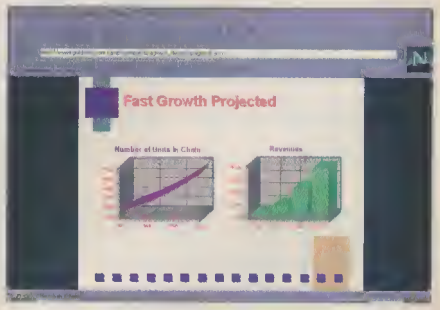
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVEN UNDERWOOD

Work Without Walls

Data on the Run

Working from home or the road—a bold, new concept just a few years ago—is fast becoming the norm. Whether you work away from the office a couple of days a week or a few hours a day, having access to information from the main office is critical. . . . **Cut the Cord** It's a common mistake, forgetting files on the office network. You could just dial into the network, but that's not so simple when you're pressed for time. NetStream's NetGain caches frequently accessed files and applications from the network onto your hard drive. As a result, you get better performance—NetGain looks in your cache before looking on the network—and a security net when you're on the road. Once you're back on the network, changed files are immediately updated ($80 est. street price; 800-677-7876). . . . **Multimedia on the Move** A portable CD-ROM drive can be an oxymoron in action. Many are difficult to set up and offer sluggish performance.

However, Addonics' PCDS6X (below left) offers truly portable multimedia. The six-speed drive and sound card combo plugs into any enhanced parallel port and offers data transfer rates of up to 900Kbps with 16-bit sound ($449 est. street price; 800-787-8580). . . . **Remote Control** Artisoft's newly acquired CoSession Remote 7.0 is a low-cost remote control package that lets you call and operate your office computer and access files, just as if you were sitting at your desk. Synchronizing files on your desktop and portable is also easy. Plus, CoSession Remote costs less than any of its competitors ($79 list price; 800-233-5564). . . .



Portable Presentations: Astound creates presentations for the Internet.

Store It on the Web

Gold Disk's Astound 2.1 (above) offers a simple way to create presentations. You get 70 templates and plenty of multimedia clip art, including sound and video. And Astound includes a free plug-in for Netscape's Navigator, so you can access your presentation from any machine that has an Internet connection ($169 est. street price; 800-982-9888). JACK LYON

Reader Service Numbers: NetGain, *882;* PCDS6X, *883;* CoSession Remote 7.0, *884;* Astound 2.1, *885*

SO DEDUCT IT — PV-DV 1000 DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER

What you tell your accountant:
"With a digital video camera, we can tape all of our important board meetings and post them on our network."

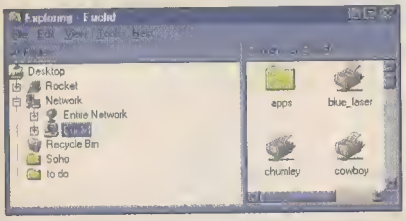
What you tell your friends:
"My first feature film, *Attack of the Random Household Appliances,* will be featured on my Web site soon."

PV-DV 1000 / Panasonic / (201) 348-9090 / $3,900 list price / *Reader Service No. 886*

Roll Your Own Network

Twenty-five percent of American households now have more than one PC. And when you have more than one machine in your home or small office, you're inevitably faced with more decisions to make and more problems to solve. Like, which machine gets the new seven-disc CD-ROM changer and which gets the ISDN modem? What if the file you need isn't on the machine you're working on? Setting up a network solves all those problems by letting you share files, printers, and modems.

If installing a network sounds like too much trouble, relax. Several network-in-a-box solutions are easy and affordable. Our testers looked at five small-network products, each slightly different in purpose but all under $300. And, except for Microsoft's Windows 95 and Artisoft's LANtastic for Windows 95, all the packages come with everything you need for installation and use.



Simple and Sweet: Windows 95's built-in networking is ideal for simple file sharing.

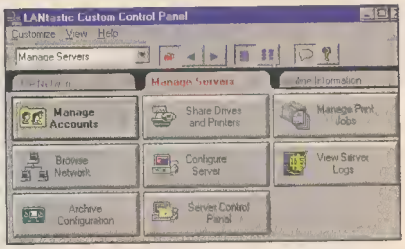
Windows 95 / Microsoft Corp. / $80 est. street price / (800) 426-9400 / *Reader Service No. 887*

Hook Me Up A year ago, the process of hooking up one PC to another was expensive, frustrating, and beyond the understanding of most mortals. Microsoft's Windows 95 changed all of that. If you have Windows 95, a couple of network cards, cables, a screwdriver, and a free afternoon, you have everything to set up your own network. If you have only two machines to hook up, it's even easier—all you need is a serial cable. See "Setting Up a Windows 95 Network," page 305, for a step-by-step guide.

Keep in mind that a simple Windows 95 network lacks the security you might want in a small office. Windows 95 operates peer to peer—each PC shares files, printers, and peripherals—so Windows 95 isn't appropriate for high-volume use. But for most SOHO environments, its networking abilities work well. Toss in Windows 95's support for direct cable connections, file synchronization, and dial-up networking, and you have all the elements of a simple and effective network.

Simply Secure If you need more control over who has access to what on your network, or if your office hasn't completely standardized on Windows 95, Artisoft's LANtastic for Windows 95 is the ticket. LANtastic lets you do several things that Windows 95 alone can't. For example, LANtastic's Management Security Levels let you specifically define access rights to individuals and groups. It also keeps a log of who accessed what and when. Also, our testers were repeatedly impressed with LANtastic's clear, concise instructions.

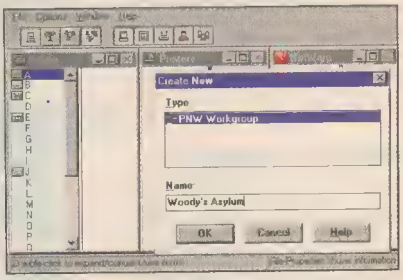
LANtastic is a cinch to set up because it lets Windows 95 do all the initial work. First you need to create your Windows 95 network and install and test your cards. Once the network is up and running, you can install LANtastic. LANtastic also works with PCs running Windows 3.1, DOS and OS/2, but setup is trickier. If you need tight security, or if you're faced with linking together machines with different operating systems, LANtastic is an excellent choice.



Secure and Strong: Top security and an excellent interface make LANtastic a good choice.

LANtastic for Windows 95 / Artisoft / (800) 846-9726 / $72 per user (not including hardware), est. street price / *Reader Service No. 888*

Personal Predicament If you're still running Windows 3.1, NDC's Personal Network provides everything you need to set up a NetWare network—cards, cables, Novell's Personal NetWare 1.0 software, manuals, and a tutorial—all in one convenient package. All that's lacking is a giant bottle of aspirin. Installing Personal Network brought back a flood of DOS memories for many of our usability testers. Setup was tricky, to say the least. Even though Personal



Memorize the Manual: Setup is tough, but you have good control over security with Personal Network.

Personal Network / NDC / (800) 632-1118 / $299 for two users, list price / *Reader Service No. 889*

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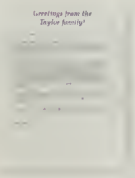
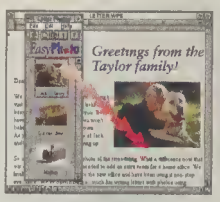
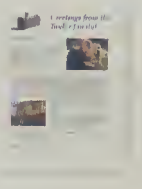


Begin with an ordinary letter, invitation, flyer, etc.

The EasyPhoto Reader lets you add your photos quickly and easily with the push of a button.



Drag and drop your photo anywhere with EasyPhoto software (included!).



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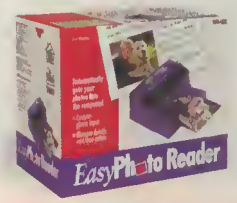

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PC Magazine

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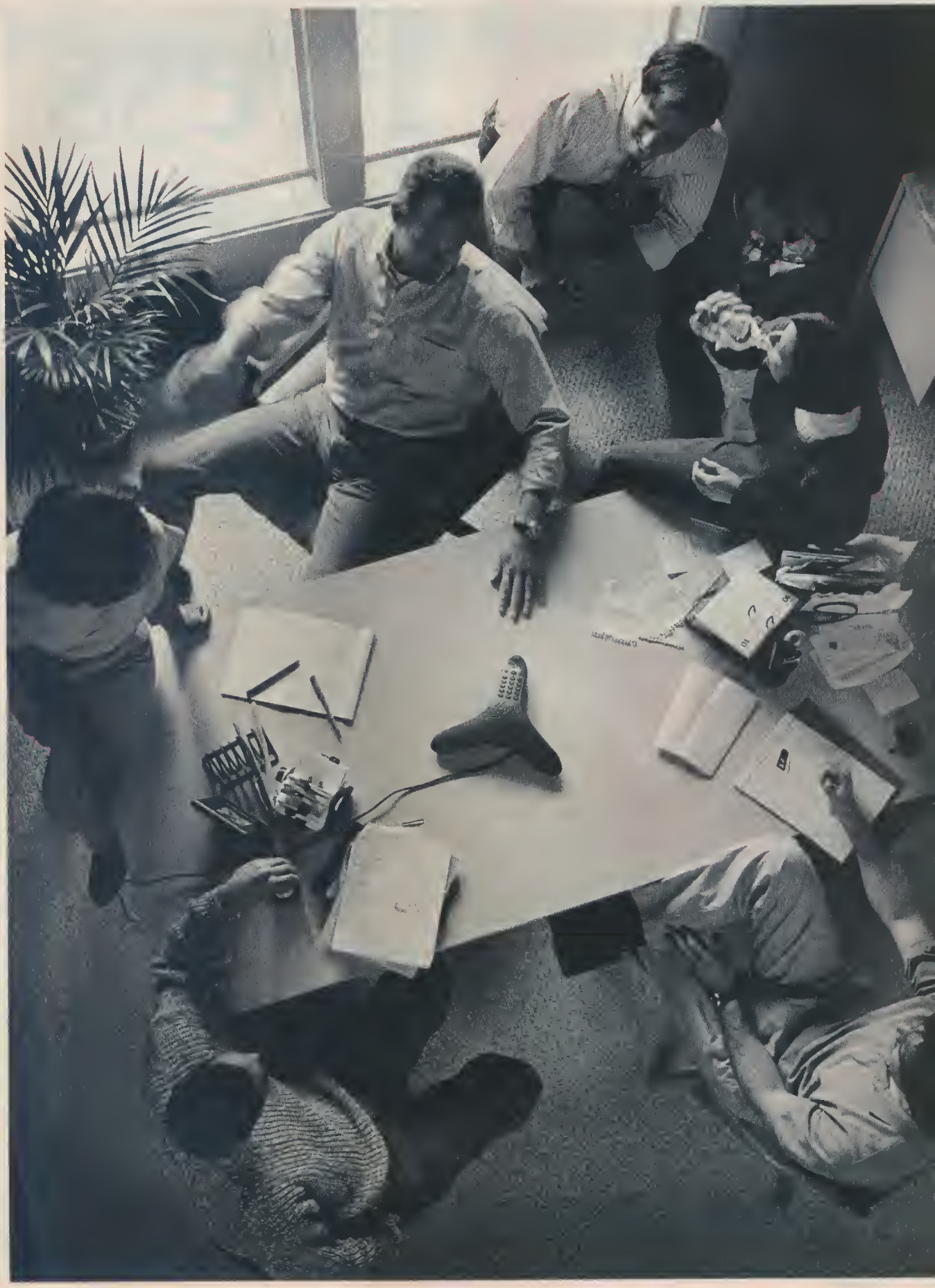

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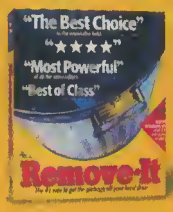

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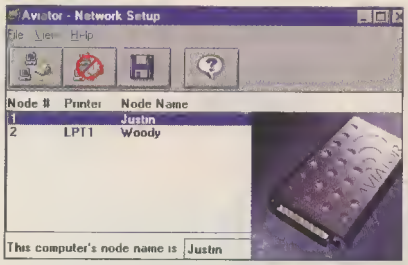


Wire-Free: Aviator Wireless (inset) uses radio waves to connect PCs.

Aviator Wireless Adapter / Momentum MicroSystems / (800) 894-5280 / $249 for two users, est. street price / *Reader Service No. 890*

Network's maintenance and configuration is burdensome, you get more control over security and high-volume tuning with Personal Network than with Windows 95. Personal Network even has a built-in agent that reports on how to deliver the best network performance.

No Strings Attached If you want a small network but could do without the ugly cables, Momentum MicroSystems' Aviator Wireless Adapter is an ideal solution. Aviator includes a small radio-frequency transmitter, which plugs into a serial port. The transmitter sends data over distances of up to 75 feet, and unlike infrared wireless network cards, they work through walls and around corners. While the 75Kbps transfer rate is nothing to brag about, it's tolerable for typical SOHO file sharing.

Aviator comes with everything you need, and is easy to set up because you don't even have to open up your machine. Unfortunately, Aviator's software isn't ready for prime time yet: Sharing files and peripherals is primitive at best, and security is nonexistent. Momentum MicroSystems is working on native Windows 95 drivers, so Aviator will be able to handle standard peer-to-peer networking.

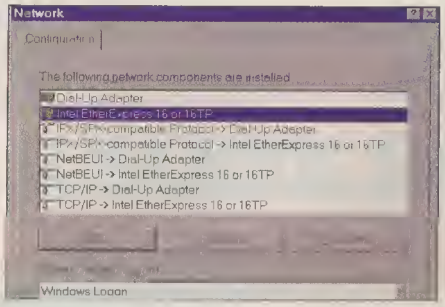
Let the Games Begin OK, so much for the business stuff. What you really want is a screaming setup that can handle multiple players for id Software's Doom, right? Moses' FunWire-Home Arcade is an easy network package that has

Thrill Seekers: FunWire installs easily for multiplayer Doom action.

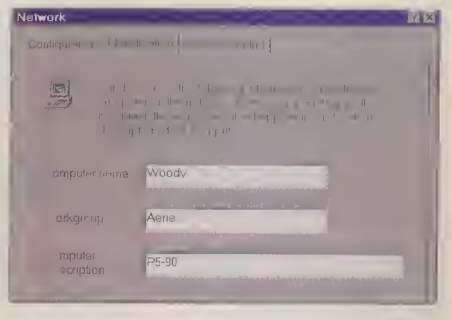
FunWire-Home Arcade / Moses Corp. / (800) 306-6737 / $99 for two users, est. street price / *Reader Service No. 891*

STEP BY STEP SETTING UP A WINDOWS 95 NETWORK

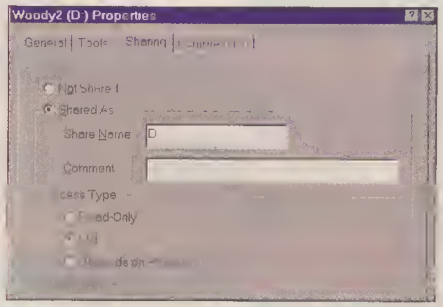
You need four things to set up a Windows 95 network: a network card for each PC, cables to connect the cards, Windows 95, and a screwdriver. Any basic Ethernet network card will do, but 3Com, Asanté, and Intel make inexpensive and reliable ones. Expect to spend around $50 on the networking hardware for each PC. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to install the cards and cables, then take these steps to configure the hardware under Windows 95 on each system.



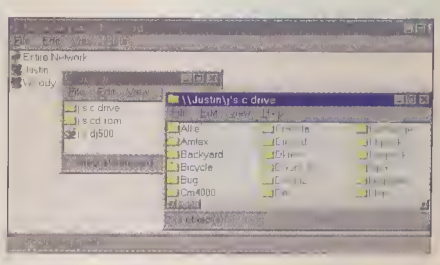
Add Hardware: Use the Add Hardware Wizard to set up the cards. Then double-click on the Network icon in the Control Panel. Under the Configuration tab you will see four entries: an adapter for your card, a protocol, Client for Microsoft Networks, and a service called File and Printer Sharing.



Configure Workgroup: Click on the Identification tab in the Control Panel. (You may have to restart your computer for it to appear.) The crucial entry is the workgroup name: It must precisely match the workgroup name on all the computers in your network. Click on OK and restart your PC.



Set Access: When Windows 95 comes back up, open Windows Explorer and right-click on each drive that you want to share across the network. Repeat the process for each item that you want shared. Restart your computer.



Check Connections: Repeat the steps on the other PCs in your network. Check to make sure the network is working by right-clicking on Network Neighborhood and choosing Explore. If you can't view other network drives, repeat the steps, paying close attention to the four entries on the Configuration tab and the spelling of the workgroup name.

Instant Office Networks

	Windows 95	LANtastic for Windows 95	Personal Network	Aviator Wireless	FunWire
Operating Systems Supported	Windows 95	Windows 95, Windows 3.1, DOS, OS/2	Windows 3.1	Windows 95, Windows 3.1	Windows 95, Windows 3.1, DOS
Extra Equipment Needed	Generic network interface cards, cables, and connector	Generic network interface cards, cables, and connector	None	None	None

what you'll need for action-packed networked games. Installation is so simple that a comic book-like guide takes you through setup. Game cards are daisy-chained using standard telephone cords.

FunWire also runs on Windows 95, Windows 3.1, and DOS. While two-player Ultimate Doom works just fine on a standard Windows 95 network, FunWire uses "switched nonblocking" technology to ensure that four or five players can simultaneously keep the Cacodemons at bay. Our testers found that FunWire worked with every networked game tossed at it.

Networking Options

When you get right down to it, one of the reasons most small offices and home offices need a network is to let a handful of PCs share files, printers, and security. If that's your situation, stick with Microsoft's Windows 95. If you need to connect several machines or if security and maintenance are important, go with Artisoft's LANtastic. It's also the best pick for offices running on more than one operating system. For offices still stuck in the Windows 3.1 world, NDC's Personal Network offers a healthy dose of power. For cluttered offices, Momentum's Aviator Wireless is good, since it bypasses the hassle of wiring a whole office, but its software needs an upgrade. Finally, for game fanatics who want more than one-on-one play, Moses' FunWire-Home Arcade is the way to go. WOODY LEONHARD

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1 Choose the factor that's most important.	2 What's the next most important factor?	3 What else is important?	4 For your needs, the best product to buy is . . .
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		Games	Moses FunWire-Home Arcade
	Price	File/Peripheral Sharing	Artisoft LANtastic
		Games	Moses FunWire-Home Arcade
Features/Security	Usability	File/Peripheral Sharing	Artisoft LANtastic
		Games	Moses FunWire-Home Arcade
	Price	File/Peripheral Sharing	Artisoft LANtastic
		Games	Moses FunWire-Home Arcade
Price	Usability	File/Peripheral Sharing	Microsoft Windows 95
		Games	Moses FunWire-Home Arcade
	Features/Security	File/Peripheral Sharing	Artisoft LANtastic
		Games	Moses FunWire-Home Arcade

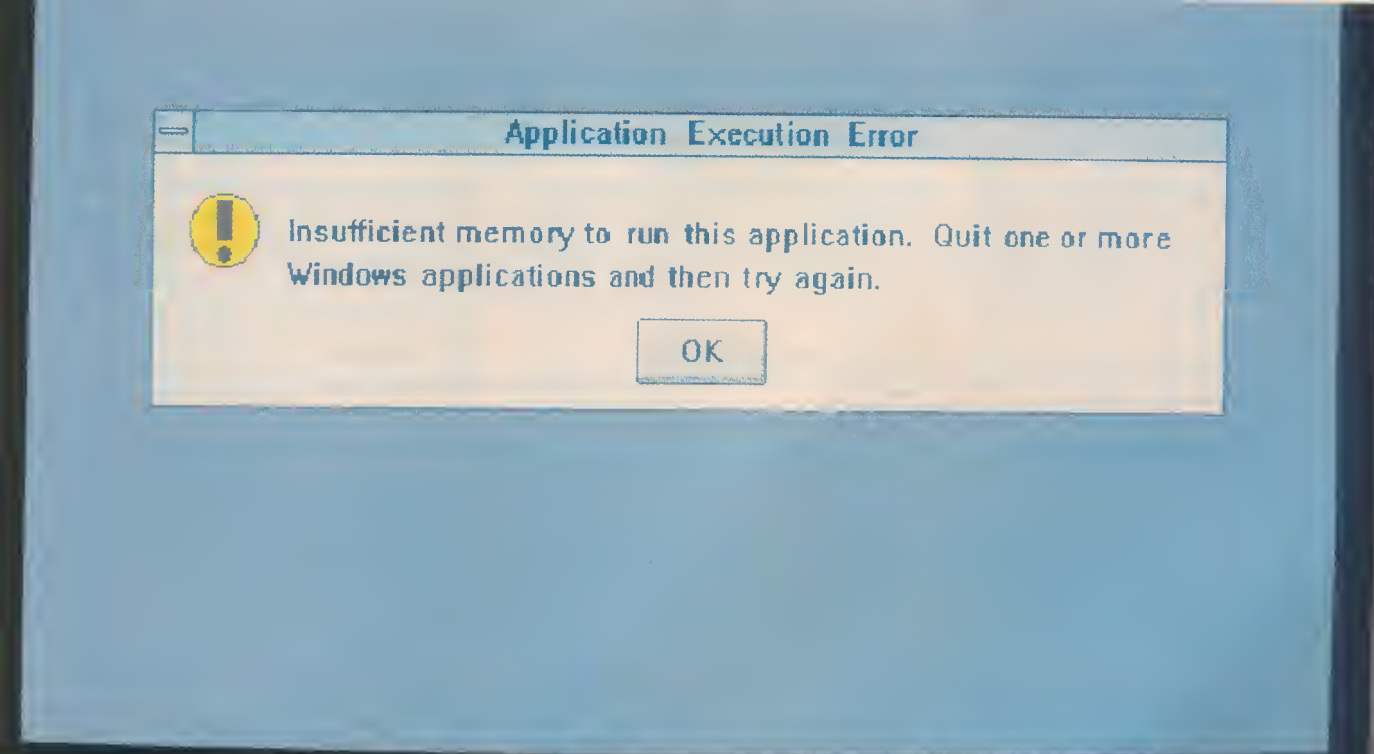
Labnotes

If you're currently working in a small office/home office environment, our SOHO Lab will seem familiar: It's a rather cramped place, where work space is at a minimum.

Our usability testers were SOHO veterans with varying degrees of computer skill. Some had experience assembling and using peer-to-peer networks, but most did not. Our test PCs ranged from aging 486s to state-of-the-art Pentiums. Each PC had an assortment of add-in cards. If cards and cables didn't come with a product, our testers used Intel's EtherExpress 16 network cards and 10Base-T cabling.

Our testers examined how easy it was to install a program; hook up and string along the necessary hardware components; configure an entire network; set up various drives for sharing; and set access rights for several different files. They also set up printers and CD-ROM drives, and tested how easy it was to share them across a network.

Each product was also examined for various levels of user access—from simple, all-or-nothing access to allowing certain people access to only certain drives. Other factors looked at were how easy it was to read user logs and change profiles.



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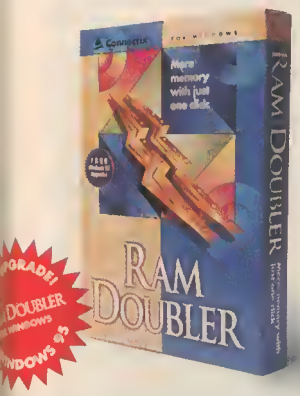

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Fixes Memory Below 1MB	✓	✓		
Uses Compression To Double Application Memory Space	✓	✓	✓	✓
Doesn't Modify Autoexec.bat Or Config.sys.	✓			✓

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Please answer questions below:

1. Where do you use your computer? (Check one only):
1 ☐ Home 2 ☐ Business 3 ☐ Both

2. What kinds of computers do you use? (Check all that apply).
1 ☐ IBM/Compatible Laptop 2 ☐ IBM/Compatible Desktop 3 ☐ MAC

3. Do you plan to buy any of the hardware or software mentioned below in the next three months? (Check all that apply):

HARDWARE
1 ☐ PC
2. ☐ MAC
3 ☐ Laptop
4. ☐ Printer
5. ☐ Monitor
6. ☐ Disk/Tape Back-up
7. ☐ Add-in Board
8. ☐ Modem
9. ☐ Input Device
10. ☐ Local Area Network
11. ☐ UPS

SOFTWARE
12 ☐ Accounting
13 ☐ Spreadsheet
14 ☐ Personal Finance
15 ☐ Desktop Publishing
16 ☐ Word Processor
17. ☐ Database Manager
18. ☐ Graphics
19. ☐ Utility
20 ☐ Communications
21. ☐ Windows 95
22. ☐ Programming Language/ Compiler
23. ☐ Integrated/Multifunction
24 ☐ CAD
25 ☐ CD-ROM
26. ☐ On-Line Services

4. From which of the following sources do you purchase personal computer products? (Check all that apply):
1. ☐ Specialty Computer Retail Stores
2. ☐ Mail Order Firms
3. ☐ Direct from Manufacturers
4 ☐ Other

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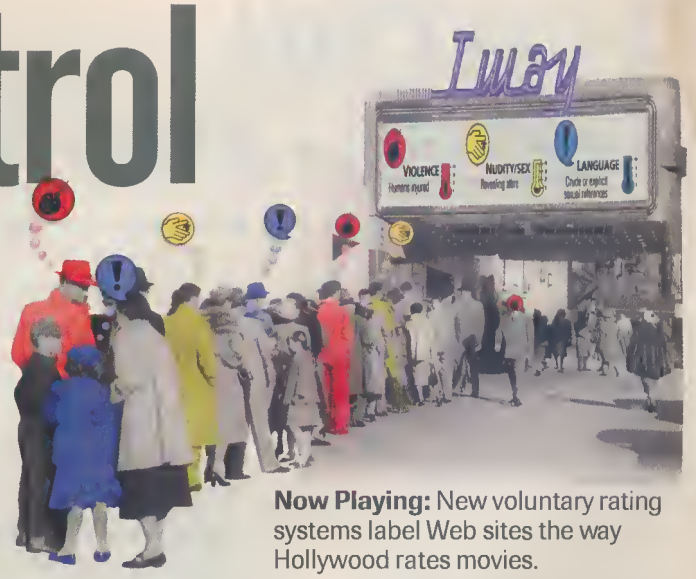
I-Way Patrol



Now Playing: New voluntary rating systems label Web sites the way Hollywood rates movies.

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The Coriolis Group's *How to Get Your Dream Job Using the Internet* is a 350-page resource for online career quests. The book comes with a CD-ROM.

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SITE RATINGS

Suitable For All Audiences?

You've probably run across lewd Web sites you wouldn't want your children or students to access. The U.S. government's reaction to this online smut was swift and severe: Americans who post indecent content are subject to a $250,000 fine and up to two years in prison, thanks to the Communications Decency Act recently signed into law. But there is another solution: voluntary content ratings that protect children and preserve free speech.

Taking a clue from Hollywood's film-rating system, which lets you drop off Junior at a G-rated movie and then enjoy an R-rated flick yourself, the Recreational Software Advisory Council (RSAC) recently proposed an open, independent content-advisory system for the Internet. This rating system—dubbed RSAC on the Internet (RSACi)—will be bundled with Microsoft's Internet Explorer Web browser. Two prominent Internet blocking companies, SurfWatch and Microsystems Software (developers of Cyber Patrol), also announced support for RSACi.

To rate sites on the RSACi system, site publishers complete a questionnaire containing specific questions about the nature and intensity of violence, sex, and language found on the site. The questionnaire is then submitted to RSAC's independent board of directors, which includes members of the software industry, educators, and publishers. Once a RSACi rating label is embedded in a site, it's read by RSACi-compliant browsers that accept or reject the site for viewing.

As with parental controls found in online services, the consumer—not Uncle Sam—determines what is or isn't seen. And on the free-speech battlefront, self-policing efforts like RSACi are just the beginning. Similar content-rating systems include SafeSurf and the Platform for Internet Content Selection (PICS), a proposed ratings system sponsored by the W3 Consortium and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Other things to watch for: legislative proposals to overturn the Communications Decency Act; a competing content-ratings scheme backed by Netscape; software and services that offer "indecent" content to adults who are willing to pay for it; and, of course, wily teenage hackers who simply can't be stopped.

ONE-MINUTE GUIDE Voluntary Blocking, Not Censorship

While legislators and lawyers battle over the Communications Decency Act, the software industry is offering voluntary Internet-blocking technology. Here's a handy guide for parents, educators, and managers.

CYBER PATROL Microsystems' Cyber Patrol lets you block more than 7,500 Internet resources (www.cyberpatrol.com).

CYBERSITTER With Solid Oak Software's CyberSitter, you can block access to Internet sites and analyze all Net activity from behind the scenes (www.solidoak.com/cybersit.htm).

INTERNET IN A BOX FOR KIDS Spry's kid-centric I-Way suite includes all the tools children need to surf the Web. Plus, you get built-in SurfWatch technology (www.spry.com/about/products/kidbox.html).

KINDERGUARD InterGo's Internet Suite includes KinderGuard, a feature that lets parents rate and block access to sites (www.intergo.com:80/wow/wow.htm).

NET NANNY Trove Investments' Net Nanny lets you monitor your PC and block access to any information—online or off (www.netnanny.com/netnanny).

SURFWATCH SurfWatch surfs smutty sites so you don't have to. The software prevents access to explicit sites based on your own criteria (www.surfwatch.com).

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER ALAN GOULD

I-Way Patrol

Insites

ONLINE ACCESS Looking for a large, low-cost Internet service provider? Try the Concentric Network.
www.concentric.net

CLUB SALSA Check out Club Salsa, Wall Data's provocative art project.
www.walldata.com

FOGHEAD FILES Don't miss Scoop Nisker's Weekly Scoop of irreverent commentary from San Francisco's KFOG radio station.
www.kfog.com

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File: UCODE.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 30K/20 seconds

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Go beyond Hearts with Real Deal, a card-game package with Euchre, Spades, Pinochle, and Cribbage.
File: RDEAL.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 899K/8 minutes

Organize Your Desktop ★★★★
If your desktop is cluttered, try Almanac for Windows 95 and Windows NT to manage information.
File: ALMANT.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 467K/4 minutes

Icon Editing and Management Tool ★★★★
Microangelo lets you browse, edit, and manage Windows icons with ease.
File: MUANGL.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 360K/3 minutes

Powerful DMF Formatter ★★★★
Read, write, and format DMF-style disks with WinImage.
File: WIMA95.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 261K/2 minutes

Pretty Good Privacy for Windows ★★★★
Are you paranoid? You should be. But you'll sleep better if you have WinPGP's two-key encryption.
File: WINPGP ZIP **Size/Time*:** 741K/8 minutes

I-Way Road Map to 1,001 Best Sites ★★★★
Besides our Web maps, this is the most complete collection of the best Internet sites.
File: IWY101.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 62K/1 minute

32-Bit Screen-Grab Utility ★★★
Snapshot/32 captures Windows 95 and Windows NT screens and saves them as BMP, JPEG, or GIF files.
File: 3DDUKE.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 290K/3 minutes

Basic Memory Monitor ★★
Wondering about your free RAM and Windows 95 system resources? Get instant updates with Memory Status.
File: MSTAT.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 15K/10 seconds

Package Deals: One Download, Many Files

DESCENT PACK
Check out this two-for-one package of Descent 1 and Descent 2. Fly through underground mines and blast bad guys in vivid, nausea-inducing 3-D on a Windows 95-equipped PC.
File: DESCENT.ZIP
Size/Time*: 7MB/2 hours
★★★★★

ROCK 'N' ROLL FONTS
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File: COOLFONT.ZIP
Size/Time*: 264K/2 minutes
★★★★★

SAVE YOUR SCREEN
Not that your screen needs saving, but you'll be entertained with our screen-saver collection. Dozens of RAM-eating distractions in one convenient file.
File: SCREEN.ZIP
Size/Time*: 105K/1 minute
★★★

Ratings: ★★★★★ *Olympic Gold Medal.* ★★★★ *NCAA sweet-16 berth.* ★★★ *Checkers champion.* ★★ *Pinball wizard.* ★ *Solitaire runner-up.*

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PC Computing *(ISSN 0899-1847) is published monthly by Ziff-Davis Publishing Company, One Park Ave., New York, NY 10016. Second-class postage paid at New York, NY 10016, and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster. Send address changes to* PC Computing, *P.O. Box 58229, Boulder, CO 80322-8229. Printed in the U.S.A. Canada Post International Publications Mail Product (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. 278513. The Canadian GST registration number is R123669673.*

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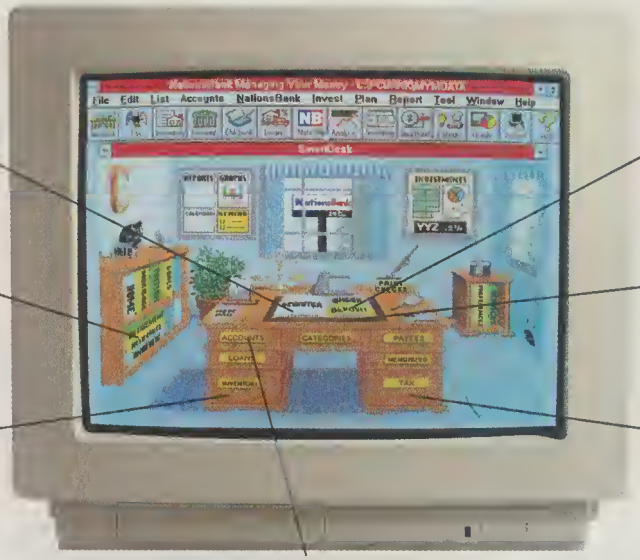

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HotList

Bookmarks of the Rich and Famous

Oy. This month our spies hung out at Elaine's, bought ringside Knicks tickets, and stalked every therapist's office on the Upper East Side, just to get the hotlist for the ultimate New York nebbish: Woody Allen. And who would have thought it? No Soon Yi jokes. Check out everything you wanted to know about Woody but were afraid to ask, here and online via www.pccomputing.com.

JACK LYON

"Woody Allen

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Play It Again, Sam
Casablanca Sounds
moviesounds.com/casblnca.html

Bullets over Broadway, Manhattan Murder Mystery, Crimes and Misdemeanors
New York's 911 Emergency
www ci.nyc.ny.us/html/emergency.html

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex but Were Afraid to Ask
Dr. Ruth's Encyclopedia of Sex
www.creativemm.com/coinfo/press/releases/94_12_09.html

New York Stories
The New York Times
www nytimes.com/

Stardust Memories
History of NASA
www.gsfc.nasa.gov/hqpao/history html

Manhattan
The Webtender: An Online Bartender
www.pvv.unit.no/~pallo/webtender/

Sleeper
Cure Narcolepsy Now!
www.cloud9.net/~thorpy/NARCO.HTML

Another Woman
Gennifer Flowers
wwwnt.thegroup.net/flowers.htm

Take the Money and Run
Street Crimes: Purse Snatching
www.he.net/~pg/toh/hpd/resource/scpurse.htm

Bananas
The Potassium Chronicles
www.krispin.com/potassm.htm

Don't Drink the Water
Pepsi Home Page
www.pepsi.com/

Shadows and Fog
The San Francisco Web Cam
www.kpix.com/live/

Husbands and Wives
Natural Enemies
gnv.ifas.ufl.edu/~ent2/wfly/wfly003e.htm

A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy
The Hugh Grant Scandal
www-cgi.cnn.com/SHOWBIZ/HughGrant/index.html

Radio Days
Antique Radio Page
members.aol.com/djadamson/arp.html

Love and Death
Sometimes Free Is Too Expensive
www.access digex.net/~nsbamags/brandes.html

Comedy Material
Existential Home Page
home.navisoft.com/darkstar/exist/index.htm

More Comedy Material
Neurotic Disorders
www.ohsu.edu/chniweb/F3/F3.709.438 html

Dedipus Wrecks
Jewish Mothers
personal.eunet.fi/pp/upix/jidmama.txt

Cantankerous Crustaceans
How to Cook Maine Lobster
www.maineguide.com/bangor/food/mclaughlins/mclcook.html

Honorable Pursuits
New York Knicks
www.nando.net/SportServer/basketball/nba/nyk.html

Do I Feel Warm to You?
Hypochondria
noel.pd.org/topos/perforations/perf6/hypochondria2.html

Blowing My Horn
The Clarinet Player's Home Page
www windplayer.com/wp/clarinet.html

Ex–Leading Lady
Mia Farrow Bio
web3.starwave.com/showbiz/memorybank/starbios/miafarrow/b.html

Dealing with the Inevitable
The Death Clock
www ucs.usl.edu/~rkc7747/death.html

A Rhetorical Question That's a Universal Answer
Therapy?
www.jazzie.com/winkies/therapy.html

Food for Thought
Dining on the Upper East Side
astor.mediabridge.com/nyc/dining/area.view/upper eastside/

To God, I'm the Loyal Opposition
General Theories of Religion
world.std.com/~awolpert

Oy Vey!
Jewish Stuff
www.dorsai.org/~ackerman/jew html

Online Chat, Anyone?
Cyber-Infidelity: Adultery for the '90s
gaul.csd.uwo.ca:8080/%7Eglenn/fusion/articles/cyber_in.html

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